

It's our BIRTHDAY!  
The Glamorgan GEM is 35 years old  
See the first edition of  
The GEM on page 22.

## Sarah conquers her yo-yo weight problems and looks to a brighter future

A BARRY woman, Sarah Creasey, has told the story – in unsparing detail – of how her struggles with her weight affected her life.

Finally, she feels that she has conquered her demons, and wants to help inspire others by passing on her experiences in a new Slimming World class.

*This is Sarah's story.*  
Throughout my life, there has been one constant. My weight problem.

Life situations have never been judged by the value of my achievement, but rather my dress size on the day.

As an overweight teenager I hid behind baggy jeans and oversized tops, but at university my weight



Sarah before...

absolutely ballooned! I didn't know how to eat, so I'd starve all day, then gorge on take-aways at night.

I hid my anxieties about my weight by joining the rugby team and downing pints of

cider. I pretended that I didn't want to be 'girly'. I had a boyfriend who said he loved me just as I was and proved it by bringing me food and drink!

CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 6

## Coastguards are honoured with long service awards



BARRY Coastguard held a special evening at Barry Yacht Club to present long services awards to David Ball and Jonathan Dancy, who both have more than 40 years' service with HM Coastguard.

The awards were presented by Peter Mizzen, head of coastal operations for HM Coastguard. In attendance were members and families of the Barry Island Coastguard team and representatives from Llantwit Major and Penarth Coastguard rescue teams.

Mr Mizzen presented bouquets to Mr Dancy's wife Andrea and Mr Ball's partner Anne as a 'thank you' for their support over the years, having to contend with pagers going off in the middle of the night, leaving

part way through family meals and being away sometimes for days.

Mr Dancy and Mr Ball recalled many anecdotes of their experiences during their service with HM Coastguard.

David Ball officially joined St Govans in Pembrokeshire three months after his 16th birthday. He has also served at stations at Sharpness and Dungeness before joining the team in Barry.

He is not the only member of his family with coastguard connections, his elder brother served for 38 years, and his younger brother 22 years.

Jonathan Dancy joined in September 1976 at 16 years of age; he was in the lookout section of the Coastguard Auxiliary Service.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Members of Barry, Llantwit Major and Penarth Coastguard rescue teams attend the awards ceremony at Barry Yacht Club.

## First Minister under fire

See [www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk](http://www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk) and next week's GEM

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## 'UPHILL STRUGGLE' FOR WELSH LANGUAGE

**I**N reply to Mr W R Turner, I am an Englishman who has lived in Wales for more than 40 years, and I still speak in my original South London accent.

As I understand it, many years ago when Wales was included as part of the United Kingdom, the speaking of the Welsh language was discouraged and everyone was forced to speak English.

When we joined the European Union, can you imagine the uproar if we had been told there would be one common language throughout the

Union and we would all have to speak French?

Maybe the people who want to speak Welsh have a valid point. The Welsh seem to have some difficulty with their own language.

Approach Boverton from one direction and the Welsh translation is Treberferad. Approach Boverton from another direction, and the Welsh translation is Dreberferad.

The fact that the business in the Welsh Assembly is conducted in English points to the fact that the Welsh language has an uphill struggle to be generally accepted.

**D C Geary-Andrews, Boverton.**

## 'Is Vale Council looking into potholes?'

**I**N response to your article in last week's GEM regarding the pot holes in Llandow leading to the local skip, I am not asking the council to pay for the repairs, I am asking them to stop pandering to the owner of the site.

We are paying it maintenance money for what? If it is not keeping up the maintenance then start looking for another site now, ready for the end of the lease next year.

Why is our community tax being increased when we are surrounded by potholes, the local road sweeper

has retired (and we've heard that he's not being replaced).

Our trains and buses only run every hour, even though Alun Cairns says before every election that he's going to get them improved.

Anti-social behaviour in Llantwit Major increases at the weekend, people ignore double yellow lines and disabled parking, because we have no law enforcement in the town. **Name and address supplied.**

*GEM note: according to thetrainline.com, services – in both directions – run between Llantwit Major and Cardiff twice an hour, and to Bridgend and beyond hourly.*

## Potholes 'a rubbish excuse'

**A**FTER the fifth week of my recycling having failed to be collected, I can only assume that the amount of potholes must be making it impossible for the bin lorry to get here.

**Faith Francis, Welsh St Donats.**

## Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: **The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk**

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

**An email address alone is not sufficient!**

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

## Welsh is not 'less useful' than other languages

**I**N his letter to The GEM, Mr Turner makes the error, common among monoglots, of believing that learning Welsh, a language spoken widely in the country of his residence, is somehow less "useful" than learning other subjects.

I am sure he would join me in disapproving of the conduct of Britons who go on holiday to other countries and expect everyone else to speak English, but his reasons would probably be different.

Experts in language and linguistics will tell you that language is not merely an aid to finding the nearest railway station; it is a social skill.

Many studies have shown that bilingual or multilingual people have the capability to make a greater contribution to society because they are channelled into more diverse communication strategies and thus develop differently; in other words, their brains are being trained for to think more innovatively.

## Readers showing gullibility over 'flying rats'

**I**REFER to the five letters in The GEM on April 12 relating to a previous letter by Diane Hooper about the menacing seagulls that are moving further inland in search of food.

I would like to point out that while I have tremendous respect for most wildlife, there is no way I can support anyone's views that gulls are not pests.

In fact, many councils in England and Wales certainly agree that gulls are pests, and these councils are urging people not to feed them at all in the hope that this may starve them out.

East Devon District Council has now made it a criminal offence to feed these 'flying rats' and the possibility of

hefty fines for flouting this new law.

In recent years, an elderly lady from Dinas Powys was fined £400 as a direct result of feeding them.

You may argue that gulls were on this planet long before us, but so were the dinosaurs and I do not think anyone would take kindly to one of those shouting down their chimney or defecating on their cars.

Anyone who wishes to find out more about the legality of feeding seagulls in their area can look it up on online by typing: 'Is feeding seagulls illegal in Wales?' where you will also find some true facts about what these sometimes dangerous birds are capable of.

**Barrie V Evans, Coordinator, Barry First.**

The benefits of bilingualism have been scientifically proven, and far outweigh any disadvantages.

Some will argue that, if you are going to be bilingual, Welsh is a less "useful" second language than, say, French. But think about it – when did you last meet a fluent French speaker you could converse with?

Moreover, the UK is not overflowing with people capable of teaching modern languages; fortunately, we have a steady supply of people in Wales who are able to do so.

These are among the reasons why the efforts of recent decades to protect and foster the Welsh language are so admired in other countries.

**Mrs D C Fisher, Colwinston.**

## Communities First mix-up soured farewell

**I**T was great to read in The GEM the account of the farewell event celebrating Barry Communities First.

However, as a board member of the now defunct body, I have been asked by a number of people why I did not attend, considering I was a very active member with an excellent record of attendance at meetings and in the completion of various surveys.

As a person with walking difficulty, I was asked by Communities First if I needed a taxi, and they were informed that I did.

Due to the recent snow, the original meeting was postponed and I was informed of the new date and again they were told I would need transport.

However, on the day, the taxi didn't arrive and I presumed the meeting had again been

cancelled. That was the last I heard of it until I read the report in The GEM.

When somebody has put in the commitment I have done, I think it is very poor that somebody who was organising the event couldn't have picked up a phone and taken the trouble to ask where I was.

I have made my opinions known to the former Communities First management, but I would, however, like to wish the management now dealing with the Communities For Work programme all the best for the future and I would like to thank The GEM for giving me the opportunity to say goodbye to all the other former board members when I wasn't able to do so in person.

**Stephen Newman, Barry.**

## Car park floods 'far too often'



**I**CANNOT be the only resident of the western Vale who regularly drives to the station in Barry to use the more frequent services that the town has.

However, in the last two months, the car park – already too small for its purpose and in need of expansion – has been reduced further by flooding.

This has not just been during the heavy snowfall at the start of March, or after particularly heavy rainfall overnight, but

regularly, on even quite normal Spring days.

I include a photo of how bad this has become recently. Signs say that Network Rail are 'looking into the problem' but perhaps they could give The GEM an explanation of what they are doing about the problem and when the car park will be properly usable again?

Not wanting to hedge my bets, but I would guess that it is going to rain again at some point and they ought to be prepared for it.

**David Heald, Llantwit Major.**

## Local cemetery

**THE correct location for last week's story 'Family's anguish over headstone' should have read Porthkerry Cemetery rather than the graveyard of St Curig's Church.**

### HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 26)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
19 Thur	09.32	9.9	21.49	9.8
20 Fri	10.16	9.7	22.32	9.6
21 Sat	10.59	9.3	23.23	9.1
22 Sun	11.56	8.6		
23 Mon	00.24	8.3	13.06	8.2
24 Tues	01.41	8.0	14.32	7.9
25 Wed	03.08	8.1	15.55	8.3
26 Thur	04.23	8.6	16.59	8.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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## The Glamorgan GEM • Contact us...

**Tel: 01446 774484 • Fax: 01446 774108**

**FACEBOOK: GlamorganGEM / TWITTER: gem\_news • GEMSportNews**

**General Manager: jan.irving@glamorgan-gem.co.uk**

**News Submissions: editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk**

**Editorial enquiries: gareth.jamieson@glamorgan-gem.co.uk**

**Tim Chapman tim.chapman@glamorgan-gem.co.uk / TWITTER @TimGlamorganGEM**

**Philip Irwin philip.irwin@glamorgan-gem.co.uk / TWITTER @PhilipGlamGEM**

**Andy Johnstone andy.johnstone@glamorgan-gem.co.uk**

**Advertising/Distribution/Classified/Notices: sales@glamorgan-gem.co.uk**

**Sales Manager: jan.irving@glamorgan-gem.co.uk • Sales: wendy.snatchfold@glamorgan-gem.co.uk**

**www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk**

Published by: Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL. Printed by TMP Birmingham.





# John Wilkins: a full life that included rowing to Windsor from Barry

**ORIGINAL** 6th Barry (All Saints) Sea Scout member John Vernon Wilkins died recently in the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading.

John was an original Troop member when the 6th Barry BP Scouts changed to become Sea Scouts in 1947 under the leadership of Jack Evans.

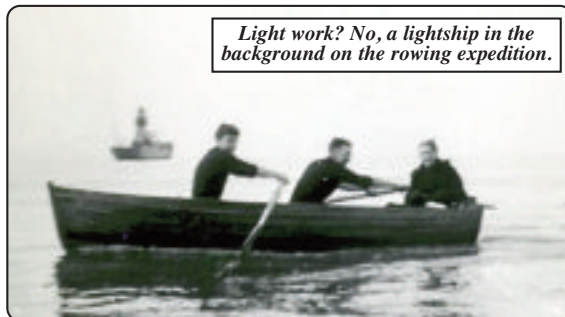
John had been in Cubs, Scouts and Senior Scouts sections before becoming an assistant leader with the scouting name of 'Buffer'.

He will long be remembered as the



John Wilkins.

initiator of an expedition in 1957 rowing from Barry across the Bristol Channel, along the Bristol Canal, the Kennet and Avon Canal and the Thames to Windsor.



Light work? No, a lightship in the background on the rowing expedition.

In the grounds of Windsor Castle, with Her Majesty The Queen there, the three-man expedition presented the Chief Scout Lord Rowallan with a plaque from the Sea Scouts of

South Wales congratulating the Scout Association on the diamond anniversary of Scouting started by Baden Powell in 1907.

As a farmer, John specialised in animal husbandry, and working for the British

Government, he spent much of his working life in Kenya and then Bolivia, training local farmers and breeding cattle suitable for tropical conditions. This work led to being awarded the OBE.

He met his wife Janey, a Cub leader with the 6th Barry, and they were just married when he was unexpectedly posted to Kenya, where Janey was involved in school education.

They had three sons and five grandchildren. Submitted by Philip Walters.

A report on the fabled Barry to Windsor rowing expedition – which has more than a nod to the exploits described in Three Men in a Boat (To Say Nothing of the Dog) – is on www.glamorgangem.co.uk.

# 'Mobile mast issue can be resolved', SAYS COUNCILLOR

NEWS of the appeal by Clarke Telecom to site a mobile phone mast at the entrance to the Knap Gardens has been greeted with dismay by local Plaid Cymru councillor Steffan Wiliam.

Cllr Wiliam told The GEM: "Following the results of a consultation of Romilly Park, Knap and Parade residents, held by local Plaid Cymru councillors over 12 months ago, I organised a site visit last year with the applicant and council officers, where it was agreed in principle to site the mast at the rear of the Knap car park."

Cllr Wiliam said there was an implication that Clarke Telecom was forced into appealing the original application to site the mast in front of the Knap Gardens following a failure to make progress with the council over the alternative proposal.

He went on: "Whatever the reasons behind this impasse, questions must be answered as to what went wrong and how it can now be rectified."



Cllr Wiliam at the entrance to Knap Gardens where the applicant wishes to locate the mast.

Cllr Wiliam is also concerned that local MP Alun Cairns has been quoted by the applicant as part of its appeal.

"Alun Cairns has unwittingly appeared in the applicant's 101-page statement as evidence to support their appeal regarding easing restrictions to allow for even taller masts in 'not spot' areas such as here. "I hope Alun will clarify his position and support my call for Clarke Telecom to withdraw its appeal and work with the community."

He added: "If the applicant and the council are truly serious about listening to residents and

siting the mast at the back of the car park then this could be resolved immediately. I urge both parties to meet with me again in order to progress this."

Vale MP Alun Cairns said: "Having previously met the developers in Barry and maintained an ongoing dialogue with the local community – I am keen to see a resolution to this issue through the exploration of several other sites. Working closely with Focus Barry, I am encouraging the developers to come and talk to the local community in a public forum to explore options."

# Paget Road play area is set for upgrade

THE Vale Council is set to begin work on a £300,000 project to upgrade the play area and multi-use games area at Paget Road in Penarth.

A drop-in session was held recently to allow residents to view the plans and ask any questions of the team behind the project.

The upgraded play area will feature an area suitable for toddlers as well as equipment aimed at children aged up to 12 years. The new equipment will include a zip wire style track ride, a multi-use climbing unit and a variety of other pieces.

The new multi-use games area caters for a variety of sports such as

football and basketball. The area will also feature lighting which will be on a timer from dusk until 9pm.

The footpath to the west of the play area will also be upgraded and moved away from the boundary fencing. The footpath from the eastern entrance will also be improved and will feature low level lights.

Jones Brothers (Henllan) Ltd have been appointed to undertake the work. Once the contractors are on site, the whole of the park will be closed for the duration of the works. It is expected that the work will take 16 weeks to complete so the park should reopen in early August.

This work is being undertaken as part of the North Penarth Open Space Improvement scheme, which will also see improvements made to The Dingle and Cogan Recreation Ground, while Plassey Square has already been upgraded. The next project the team will undertake is to

find a contractor who will upgrade the skate facilities at Cogan Recreation Ground. Part of this contract will be to work with the local community to develop the plans for the skate facility before it is built.

Cllr Gordon Kemp, Vale Council cabinet member for social care, health and leisure, said: "This exciting project with see a host of improvements made to Penarth's Paget Road play area and is part of an ongoing programme of investment in such facilities across the Vale. Cllr Jonathan Bird, Vale Council cabinet member for regeneration and planning, said: "This work has been financed through Section 106 funding linked to the Penarth Heights development."

"As a council, we have an excellent track record of securing these payments and ensuring the local community benefits from construction projects by gaining improved facilities."

# Barry rallies round to support Saffron

A FUNDRAISING event is taking place at Finnegans Inn on Barry Island tonight, Thursday, April 19 at 7pm for a special young woman who needs help at a difficult time in her life.

Saffron Manning, aged 20, lost her mother on March 29 and is now having to set up a new home and finance her mother's funeral at the same time.

A spokesperson for the event explained: "Saffron is always helping other people and puts herself last."

"She is a special individual who everyone respects and warms to, and is massively loved by all of her friends and work colleagues."

"The consensus was that everyone wanted to help Saffron in her new start."

Her friends are hoping for a big turnout.

If you can't make it, but would like to help Saffron, you can donate online at:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/saffron-manning

# Friendship Tree Trail

Art4 U will be dedicating a new tree as part of the Friendship Tree Trail on Tuesday, May 1 at 6pm at Romilly Park, Barry.

Bring a poem, a ribbon or special memento to tie or place around our new tree. The tree is situated next to the nursery and tennis courts; all welcome.

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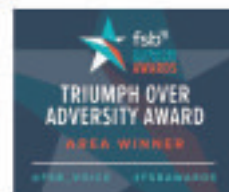


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*Helen Jones, Castleland Community Centre; Cllr Pam Drake; Cllr Nic Hodges, the Mayor of Barry; and Ceri Davies of the company indycube community.*

## New scheme in Barry to 'reduce barriers and sense of isolation of solo workers'

**CASTLELAND Community Centre is hoping that a recently-launched initiative will help solo workers.**

A spokesperson said: "This new initiative, to bring solo workers together, reducing isolated working, cutting down travel time and working in a safe, secure environment, started in February when we linked up with a company called Indycube, creating 'affordable desk spaces' in the heart of Barry."

Mark Hooper, the founder of the company, said: "Co-workers benefit from the human interaction a busy office brings, without all the politics that can surround such environments.

One of the other advantages to co-working, he said, is "...avoiding all the other private office space start-up costs"

Castleland Community Centre, in conjunction with company, will further its 'social objectives' by reducing the barriers to self-employment and reducing the sense of isolation often experienced by solo workers.

Helen Jones, Castleland's manager, said: "It is a wonderful way to breathe new life into our existing site, opening its doors to a new audience and transforming it into a centre of innovation and collaboration."

## Awards for coastguards



*Left to right: David Ball, Peter Mizen (head of coastal operations, HM Coastguard) and Jonathan Dancey.*

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

The role was primarily to undertake a VHF Channel 16 radio watch and to generally assist the regular officer or experienced auxiliary who was in charge of the watch.

In 2010, Mr Dancey was selected to represent HM Coastguard at the London Remembrance Day ceremony.

Mr Dancey's family have had a long association with Barry Island Coastguard with his late father, Peter, having completed 39 years' service and other members of my family 96 years.

With his service to date, nearly 42 years, that is a family total of 177 years.

**Mike Selley, station officer, Barry Island Coastguard**

## Teenager hospitalised following assault

**SOUTH Wales Police is appealing for witnesses to a serious assault in Penarth which left a teenage boy in hospital.**

The incident took place in the Wordsworth Avenue area of the town at approximately 11pm on Wednesday, April 11.

The 17-year-old was taken to hospital with serious injuries to his face and back, which are not thought to be life-threatening.

Detective Inspector

Terry Hopkins said: "We are appealing for anyone who witnessed the assault or who may have seen anything suspicious in the area just prior or afterwards to come forward."

"We know there were a lot of people in the area around the time in the incident, so we are asking anyone with any information – no matter how small – to get in touch."

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## Albert Primary has a Devilishly good time



**ALBERT Primary School pupils were very proud to welcome the Cardiff Devils recently.**

The Devils had just been crowned the new 'Back to Back' EIHL champions and they very kindly brought 'Monty' the league trophy with them.

A school spokesperson said: "We were very lucky to have Craig Moore and Neil Francis in school to talk to the children. Craig, who is currently on the Devils team, talked to the children about how he had become interested in ice hockey and how much he is enjoying his time with the Cardiff Devils."

"He told the children all about

the different equipment a player has to wear, the types of sticks players use and he also handed out a puck for the pupils to see how it felt.

"Craig also talked to the children about how it is important to stay healthy, eat the right foods and also exercise, so that you are able to perform at your best at school and when playing sport."

Neil, who is the director of corporate development at the Devils, was also a member of the Devils team that won the first EIHL championship 20 years ago. He played more than 650 games for the Devils during 14 seasons and has also been the

Devils' bench coach.

He shared with the children the history of the Cardiff Devils and even how they got their name.

Both Craig and Neil were able to answer all the many questions the children had, and everyone enjoyed joining in with the Devils chants at the end of the session.

The school would like to say a huge thank you to the Cardiff Devils, but especially Craig and Neil for such a wonderful experience for our pupils and wish them lots of luck for the rest of the season. Team Albert are looking forward to attending a game very soon. PP

## BARRY BOY RUNS IN THE LONDON MARATHON



*Rory Price with family and friends at the fundraiser.*

**RORY Price, born and bred in Barry, is running the London Marathon on April 22.**

Rory (22), who works at Llandough Primary School as an LRA, in his spare time coaches the Cardiff City under-9s football team.

Despite his full schedule, he has managed to raise £1,600 for Well Child charity for running in next Sunday's London Marathon.

He was supported by Novotel Hotel, Cardiff, who allowed him use of the venue to put on a fundraising night and has been heavily supported by local business Blu Hair Design where his mother, Claire Price works.

PM

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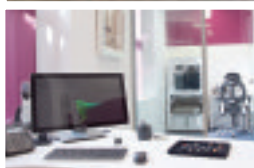
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# SARAH'S WEIGHT LOSS JOURNEY...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

**Sarah continues...** My first visit to Slimming World was back in 1993. I was 19 and was mortified when the scales read 15 stone 7 pounds! I will never forget my elation at losing 7lb in week one, 4lb in week 2 and my first stone by week 4. When I reached a healthier weight for my 5ft 9 frame of around 12 stone, I left.

The weight stayed off for years... until the day I found out I was pregnant. I started eating for two on day one. I convinced myself that I wasn't getting fat. I was pregnant! But when I weighed 18 and a half stone after the baby was born, the truth was inevitable!

Back to Slimming World... and by the time my bundle of joy was 18 months old, I was back to a healthy, happy weight.

However, the cycle repeated itself when my second child was born, and this time I was ashamed to go back to the slimming group.

I spent five years living a miserable existence. I didn't want to go to parties because I couldn't find clothes to fit. I should have been full of energy, looking trendy and enjoying my life... but I was beyond unhappy.

I set up my own theatre company and threw myself into that - I loved seeing young, beautiful people performing on the stage and prided myself in being a vital part of that performance even though I was hiding at the back in an XXXL T-shirt.

The world became a much darker place for me when my marriage crumbled. It was all very mutual and friendly, but that didn't stop it being a difficult time. Reading a text message from my ex-husband's mobile phone from a female friend asking about his 'fat wife' literally destroyed me.

She hadn't acknowledged my degree or intelligence.

She hadn't acknowledged what a hard-working and loving mum I was.

She hadn't acknowledged the large scale theatre productions I was producing and directing.

She ONLY acknowledged my fat.

So I took out a bank loan of £10,000 in 2006 and booked myself in for a gastric band.

I honestly believed that this was the only answer.

And for the first year it was... I lost 2 stone quite quickly and committed to band tightening every few months to keep it effective. I met a gorgeous new partner and got married weighing around 14 stone in 2008. I knew my weight was heading in the right direction and was delighted that I'd made such a fantastic life decision - well worth the cost!

But then the problems started.

Nobody told me that to keep losing weight with a band, you have to keep tightening it. It costs around about £120 every time and for days, you take sips of water, then build up to soft foods (with the capacity of baby food) and finally build up to hard foods such as pasta, bread, sausages etc.

There were so many side effects.

- I couldn't ever eat a meal with my friends and family. Even a small mouth full of food would leave me running to the toilet to be sick.

- I could only take the tiniest sips of water so started to feel quite dehydrated.

- I suffered from terrible acid reflux and simply lying down would make me feel like I was going to drown.

- The constant vomiting was causing my teeth to rot.

I was living as an enforced bulimic. I was starving. I was dehydrated and I was so very tired.

I had to make a change. And so I removed fluid from my band enabling me to eat and drink. Immediately, I felt healthier and rested. But the weight started to creep back.

By Christmas 2016, I was back up to 14-and-a-half-stone. The shame was back. The self-loathing was back. The desperation was back.

I knew how to eat well from my past Slimming World experiences so I made a decision to stick to the plan and weigh myself once a week in the chemists. And I started well - I lost over a stone by the summer, but then the weight loss slowed right down.

It struck me that I needed to return to Slimming World. I needed to socialise with like-minded people.

And so I went back. And the second I walked through those doors, I felt like I'd come home. I just knew that with the support of my group, I could really do it. I've never reached a target weight at Slimming World before - I usually leave when I get 'close enough' - but there was no way this was going to happen this time!

I proudly reached my target weight on February 4, 2018. The picture shows the difference.

Food optimising is a way of life now... It's just what I do - and it's so easy!

I'm desperate to continue to food optimise for life... and encourage others to do the same! I owe an incredible amount of gratitude to my inspiring consultant, Martin Woodsford. He's changed my life and inspired me to reach out and change the lives of others!

I'll be starting my own group on Tuesday, April 24 at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, Barry, CF62 7EU. My first ever new members talk will start at 5.30pm and I'd love to welcome you! I'm so excited about this new journey into a healthy, slimmer summer. I'd love you to walk with me!

Call me on 07917 881220 to find me on Facebook @Sarah Creasey if you want to find out more!



Sarah now.

## 'Choppers and Loppers' make access easier for Ramblers

**AFTER all the unseasonable weather, underfoot conditions in rural areas are muddy and waterlogged, so the 13 walkers who joined Geraint from Penarth and District Ramblers in Dinas Powys heeded his warning to wear wellington boots or gaiters for protection.**

Beginning from the Twyn, with its stunning display of spring daffodils and heading through the village and across the common to Cardiff Road, a short walk through a housing estate led them into Parc Bryn y Don and their first taste of mud.

Tramping through fields beside the Cadoxton River, heavily polluted in places with plastic bottles, brought them across the busy A4055 for a short road walk before dropping downhill to the Vale's newly installed waymarker and stiles on Sully Moors.

After a path clearing exercise in this area last August by the group's footpath team, the 'Choppers and Loppers,' stiles and a bridge were heavily overgrown and also in need of repair and after being reported to the local authority, the work has been carried out to a high standard and thanks are extended to them for making the route more accessible.

Parts of the moors have been underwater on and off for weeks, but luckily the public footpath was just boggy in places because of accumulated surface water, and after heavy rainfall beforehand the

drainage ditches were filling up.

Arriving at Ashby Road to the sound of the bells pealing out from St John the Baptist Church and passing a medieval lime kiln hidden behind a garden fence brought them to South Road for the short journey to the beach at Sully for morning break.

Following the Wales Coast Path westwards past young female footballers and stones containing local history in art form, Beach Road led them to Swanbridge where the causeway to Sully Island was submerged under a high tide.

Tramping up St Mary's Well Bay Road and across Lavernock Road led them into Cosmeston Country Park where, much to their surprise, the whole length of Mile Road is now covered in tarmac.

Making their way along the boardwalk to picnic tables beside the eastern lake heralded a lunch break followed by a trek through the eastern paddock with its magnificent display of primroses, then through the fields where the medieval Old Cogan Hall village stood.

From Sully Road, a deviation through narrow muddy tracks brought them out onto Cross Common Road for the return via East Brook back to their start.

On April 22, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 10-mile moderate/hard walk at Longtown, along Offa's Dyke above Llanthony and back along the Olchen Valley; contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.

JOY STRANGWARD

## PACT meetings around the Vale

### Meetings in Barry

WHY not come along to Gibbonsdown 'Cuppa with a Copper' which is held every Monday morning at the Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close between 10am and 12 noon?

Castleland Police Surgery will be held at Morrison's supermarket on Wednesday, May 2 between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

Gibbonsdown PACT will be held at the Residents Board Office, Coychurch Rise, Barry on Tuesday, May 8 at 10.30am.

### Meetings in Penarth

YOU can meet your local officers at Penarth Police Station today, April 19 between 4.30pm and 5.30pm.

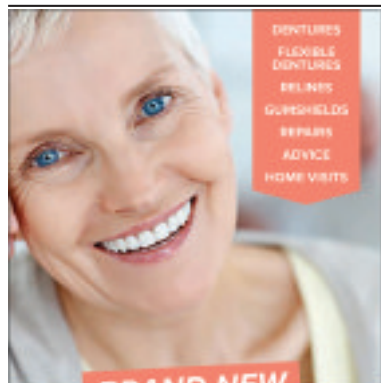
### Meetings in the Vale

St Athan - meet your local officer at the Gathering Place on Thursday, April 26, between 10am and 11.30am.

St Athan - meet your local officer at St Athan Community Hall on Friday, April 27 between 10am and 11.30am.

Llantwit Major Police Surgery will be held on May 3 at Llantwit Major Library between 10.30am and 11.30am.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting please contact 101 for non emergencies or log onto: [www.south-wales.police.uk](http://www.south-wales.police.uk) where you will find contact details for your local PCSO and you can contact them directly for non emergency matters.



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**Allwch chi gyfrannu at genhadaeth cyngor Tref Y Barri o greu cymuned gynhwysol er lles holl drigolion Y Barri? Ydych chi'n chwilio am gymorth ariannol i'ch helpu i lwyddo?**

Y llynedd darparodd Cyngor Tref Y Barri arian i fwy na 50 o grwpiau gwirfoddol a chymunedol yn Y Barri. Eleni, darparodd y Cyngor £35,000 ar gyfer grantiau i fudiadau sy'n gymwys. Mae pecynnau cais, gan gynnwys y meini prawf ar gyfer grantiau, canllawiau a ffurfienni cais ar gael yn awr yn electronaidd ac ar bapur.

**\*\*\*Newydd ar gyfer 2018\*\*\* Mae Cyngor Tref Y Barri wedi darparu pum grant o £1,000 ar gyfer busnesau bychain yn Y Barri.**

Mae Cynllun Grantiau Busnesau Bychain Cyngor Tref Y Barri yn anelu at helpu gwella busnesau sydd wedi'u sefydlu'n barod yn Y Barri a mantelso i'r elthaf a reu potensial i dyfu. Mae'r Cyngor wedi ymrwymo i welthio tuag at Y Barri Ffyniannus fel un o'i sailth nod llesiant. Yn ei Gynllun Corfforaethol, ymrwymodd y Cyngor i hyrwyddo busnesau lleol a chefnogi economi leol lwyddiannus yn Y Barri. Mae Y Barri Ffyniannus yn golygu pobl sgilgar sydd wedi'u haddysgu'n dda, cynhyrchu cyfoeth i'r economi leol, darparu cyfleoedd am swyddi, sicrhau swyddi da a mynd i'r afael â thlodi.

**Rhaid danfon ceisiadau ar neu cyn 11 Mai 2018.**



Eleni, mae Cyngor Tref Y Barri wedi trefnu gweithdy arbennig i helpu mudiadau wrth wneud eu ceisiadau. Cynhelir y gweithdy ar ddydd Mawrth 24 Ebrill 2018 ac fe'i cynhelir ddwywaith: gallwch ddewis galw heibio rhwng 10am - 12pm neu 4pm - 6pm yn swyddfeydd y cyngor. Er mwyn cael mwy o wybodaeth am y Gweithdy Ceisiadau am Arian e-bostiwch [robynwalsh@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:robynwalsh@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk) neu ffoniwch 01446 704920 a er mwyn cael pecynnau cais cysylltwch ag Emily Forbes - Prif Swyddog (Clerc y Dref), Swyddfeydd y Cyngor, 7 Heol Gladstone, Y Barri, CF62 8NA / [info@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk)

## GRANT ROUND FOR VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY GROUPS AND SMALL BUSINESSES NOW OPEN



**Can you contribute to Barry Town Council's mission of creating an inclusive community for the benefit of all residents in Barry? Are you seeking financial assistance to help you succeed?**

Last year Barry Town Council provided funding to more than 50 voluntary and community groups in Barry. This year, the Council has made £35,000 available for grants for qualifying organisations. Application packs including grant criteria, guidance and application forms are now available electronically and in hard copy.

**\*\*\*New for 2018\*\*\* Barry Town Council has made available five £1,000 grants for small businesses in Barry.**

Barry Town Council's new Small Business Grant Scheme is designed to help improve already established businesses in Barry and maximise their potential for growth. The Council is committed to working towards A Prosperous Barry as one of its seven wellbeing goals. In its Corporate Plan, the Council has committed to promote local businesses and support a thriving local economy in Barry. A Prosperous Barry means skilled and well educated people, generating wealth for the local economy, providing employment opportunities, securing decent jobs and tackling poverty.

**Applications must be returned by or before 11 May 2018.**



This year, Barry Town Council has arranged a dedicated workshop to assist organisations in making their applications. The workshop will be held on Tuesday 24 April 2018 and will run twice: you can choose to drop in between 10am - 12pm or 4pm - 6pm at the Council offices. For more information on the Funding Application Workshop email [robynwalsh@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:robynwalsh@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk) or telephone 01446 704920 and for application packs please contact Emily Forbes - Chief Officer (Town Clerk), Council Offices, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, CF62 8NA / [info@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk)



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# 'A warm, honest, funny man... and true gentleman' Remembering Jeff Evans



Former Mayor of Barry, Jeff Evans

**FORMER Mayor of Barry and local councillor Jeff Evans, who died at the age of 74, has been described as a "a warm, honest and funny man" and a "true gentleman".**

Jeff served as the town's mayor in the year 2014 to 2015.

Labour Barry Town Council leader Cllr Bronwen Brooks told The GEM he was a man of great humour who was always on hand to offer colleagues support.

"I have known Jeff for many years and I would like to pay tribute to the warm, honest, funny man who became a personal friend and supported me over the years in everything I have done, along with his wife of over 40 years, Carol.

"We have shared many a campaign, walking the streets delivering leaflets and door knocking and

always with a smile and good humour.

"Jeff took me under his wing when I first joined the Labour Party, showing me the ropes and encouraging me to stand for elected office... even joining me as a Barry town councillor in Court ward for a number of years, and he became Mayor of Barry in 2014, a role which I know he enjoyed immensely.

"He represented Barry at many events as well as fundraising for local causes throughout his mayoral year.

"Jeff was a true gentleman and will be sorely missed by his family, friends and colleagues.

"He was famous for his witty one liners and stories of his working life at the Coal Board and he could always be counted on if you ever needed help or support."

Vale Labour AM Jane Hutt said he was a man who provided 'unstinting support'.

"I want to pay tribute to Jeff Evans, former town councillor and Mayor of Barry Town Council, chair of the Vale of Glamorgan Labour Party, and a much loved and respected friend. Thank you, Jeff, for your unstinting support and my deepest sympathies to Carol and family."

DS

## Funding advice for community groups

**IS your voluntary or community group looking for funding for core or project costs?**

If so, Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) can help you identify potential funders, or provide information and guidance on how to develop sustainable income streams.

GVS' Development Officer, Dave Edwards, will be attending the mini volunteering event at Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Hall on Thursday, April 26, between 11am and 1pm

and will be available to discuss your funding requirements.

So as well as finding out more about local volunteering opportunities that are available, you can also find out more about how to improve your funding position.

You don't need to book a place, just come along and we look forward to seeing you. Contact GVS, on 01446 741706, email: enquiries@gvs.wales, or visit www.gvs.wales.

## Marie Curie charity night at Penny Farthing

**VALE residents are invited to a cheese-and-wine evening on behalf of Marie Curie at The Penny Farthing on Friday, April 20, organised by the Cowbridge Fundraising Group.**

The event starts at 7pm and tickets are £15 each, available from Penny Farthing.

Profits raised will help Marie Curie provide care and support to local people living with a terminal illness and their families at the local

Marie Curie Hospice and with their Hospice at Home services in the Vale.

If you have any questions about terminal illness and are looking for support, Marie Curie is here to help you and your family. You can call the Marie Curie Support Line on 0800 090 2309 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) or visit Mariecurie.org.uk/help.

You can also visit community.mariecurie.org.uk to share experiences and find support anytime of the day or night.

## Volunteers needed to drive minibuses



Paul Hook of Hooks Signs applies the signs he donated to an EVCT minibus

**WHEN Penarth-based charity, East Vale Community Transport, approached Hook Signs in Barry about putting 'Voluntary Drivers Wanted' on their two blue wheelchair-friendly minibuses, director Paul Hook donated his time and expertise to create the signs.**

For over 30 years, East Vale Community

Transport's volunteer drivers have been helping people to get about when public transport is not an option.

But EVCT needs more people to volunteer to drive their minibuses – even if they are able to help just once in a while.

EVCT is very grateful to Mr Hook and hopes that his adverts will attract people who are prepared to give a little time to contact Sharon Jesson, EVCT Co-ordinator, on 02920 705138 or at enquiries@evct.org.uk

GS

# branch now open

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Cash JISA	£1	£1	2.00%
Young Saver	£1	£1	2.00%
First Adult Saver (Only available to customers aged 18 to 32 years old)	£1	£1	1.25%

\* These INTEREST RATES are variable. They may be amended in response to changing economic conditions or as required in the interests of financial expediency and the prudent management of the Society.

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### COWBRIDGE BRANCH 01446 506000

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\* AER Stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and added each year.

\* GROSS The Gross rate is the contractual rate of interest before the deduction of income tax.

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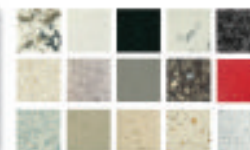
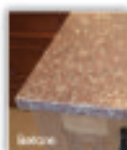
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# Local man hopes to get falcon therapy project off the ground

**THINK 'therapy', and many minds will jump to lying on a couch or sitting in a group of strangers discussing personal problems, or, more creatively, a spot of painting.**

But therapy is a broad church, and takes many forms.

Canine therapy is one branch of animal-assisted therapy (AAT), while equine-assisted therapy (hippotherapy) has been around for donkeys' years.

Its modern incarnations – as practised at, say, the Fortune Centre in the New Forest for young people with learning

disabilities, or Horseback UK in Scotland for Armed Forces' veterans – have been developed from the 1960s onwards.

A Barry man, however, has taken Winston Churchill's adage that "There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man" and adapted it.

Mark Brinkworth has replaced 'horse' with 'hawk' for his concept of AAT.

Few could not be moved, even a little envious perhaps, of the soaring swift surety displayed by a raptor.

From the grace and danger of a Peregrine Falcon (look up to the tops of the concrete canyons in towns and

cities; the *Falco peregrinus* has made its home there) diving at its next meal at 200mph, or the remarkable poise of a Kestrel scarcely moving as it hovers, birds of prey are symbols of freedom.

Steve Miller, after all, did not write a song called *Fly Like a Pigeon*...

Mr Brinkworth has a varied background.

He has worked in the field of mental health, and with young people with learning disabilities. He has been a youth worker and an employer consultant.

He has also studied falconry for more than 40 years, has kept and flown both falcons and hawks, and completed a course in falconry.

"I have also spent time working with Falconers in the field, on flying demonstrations, and bird control," said Mr Brinkworth.

He added that he has empathy for those with learning disabilities and mental health issues, but when asked, stressed that he is not a therapist.

"That's right; I'm not

a therapist, but my hawks will be, when my idea gets off the ground."

Mr Brinkworth said he is testing the water to see how much interest his idea for raptor therapy in the Vale garners, and will form a charity if sufficient interest is shown.

"I know that a specific type of therapy does not work for every individual, but perhaps if hawk and falcon therapy is added to the raft of therapeutic interventions available, then it can do good for some people."

He said that the aim will be to work with anyone who has a love of birds, especially birds of prey.

"As with any form of therapy, we will discuss whether it will be suitable for an individual with that person, their support workers and medical professionals, and their families."

That, admits Mr Brinkworth, is some way off.

"First, I need to see what interest there is for this. I am not aware of anyone else using

hawks and falcons in therapy, so it really is a major, and innovative, project."

[GEM readers might be familiar with Helen Macdonald's memoir *H is for Hawk* in which she describes how rearing and training a young goshawk provided a form of therapy following the death of her father.]

"I have experience of setting up and managing projects, but I can't do this alone."

Mr Brinkworth said that, ideally, anyone wishing to get involved will have a combination of passion – both for falcons and hawks, and for helping others – and experience in charities and projects.

He is inviting anyone who feels they can help to get in touch with him.

"I'd like this to work, and I think it can. I'm 60 now and not getting any younger, so it would be good to leave falcon and hawk therapy in the Vale and beyond as my legacy."

Interested? Mark Brinkworth can be contacted at hebog200@gmail.com. AJ

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**GLAMORGAN VOLUNTARY SERVICES (GVS) will be hosting a mini volunteering event in Cowbridge Lesser Hall on Thursday, April 26 from 11am to 1pm.**

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A spokesman said: "Come along to the volunteering event to embark on a new adventure as a volunteer and open up a world of opportunities. You will be able to chat directly with local

volunteering providers and find the right opportunity for you.

"Volunteering is a good way to get to know your community better, meet new people, and gain new experiences. You'll also boost your chances of finding paid work."

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# Reader voices concern over male choirs

**As a feminist, and one pretty new to south Wales (I live in Cardiff, but work across the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend), I read with shock the April Fool's Day on-line story "Protest taking place in King's Square to rename Barry".**

Shocked because it was such a well-written, witty, satirical piece that you don't see in local press especially in Wales, where the press is generally left-leaning – that poked fun at a sacred cow or two yet was believable. More outlandish proposals than that seem to be policy for our politicians and groups espousing a cause.

But it made me think, maybe a little mischievously to begin with, why, as a woman, can I not join a male voice choir?

The likes of Madeleine Moon, Jane Hutt, Carwyn Jones and Chris Elmore – our elected representatives – are so keen to pontificate on and champion equality and diversity, but have seemingly ignored one of the last bastions of male privilege, misogyny and racial prejudice.

I am a black British (third generation) woman, and I would like to know from our MPs and AMs what they propose doing to tackle the lack of gender and ethnic diversity in the male voice choirs in the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend, and why so far they have done nothing to challenge it.

Each time I see a photograph of a male voice choir, it is a sea of white male faces looking back at me. Yes, occasionally it might have a female musical director or accompanist, or guest vocalist, but that is it.

How do these choirs recruit? How do they plan to tackle the gender and ethnic imbalance? Have they reached out to the LGBT+ communities, those perhaps who follow Judaism, Islam, Sikhism, Hinduism to recruit? Bridgend Male Choir, for example, has received public money from the Arts Council of Wales, yet has no equality or diversity position, while Cowbridge Male Voice Choir is a registered charity!

I do not want to read of wishy-washy excuses

such as 'Join a female choir', 'Well, look at the cathedral choirs. They are all male', 'It's culture (culture, as well as causing me to remove the safety from my Browning, is the last refuge of the scoundrel)', 'There are very few BME in Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan' (but plenty of women I understand) or 'Anyone can join', because clearly women cannot and BME do not.

So, politicians and choirs, I am all ears because it is time to change.

Unless, of course, the choirs say that any man or woman can join, so long as they possess a rich, tenor, baritone, or bass voice, or 'identify' as a white male.

**Lizzie Ahouré, Cardiff**

**All persons and organisations referred to in Ms Ahouré's letter were contacted to respond to points made.**

**Ogmore's MP Chris Elmore and AM Huw Irranca-Davies issued a joint response.**

"Many of the communities we represent across Ogmore, and indeed throughout Wales, have a proud history of male voice choirs."

"They, along with many other types of singing groups, are part and parcel of the cultural fabric of Wales."

"In our constituency, there is a wealth of opportunities to join choirs, whether these be female-only, mixed, male voice or children's choirs, there really is something for everyone to get involved with."

"We're proud of the fact that the choirs do a great deal to be open and accessible to people seeking to join their groups and work closely with other local choirs to signpost people to the group which may best suit their musical skillset."

"The Arts Council for Wales supports many different organisations and has a proud record of promoting diversity through the community projects they support across Wales. From a simple search on the Arts Council's website, it's clear to see that they regularly provide funding to a range of choirs, including mixed-gender groups."

"Male voice choirs clearly exist in this manner for stylistic reasons, as do the large number of female-only choirs, and we will continue to support a diverse range of different musical organisations across Ogmore."

**Ryan Wood, Musical Director of Bridgend Male Choir, also responded.**

"I find it quite offensive to read a letter that is so full of assumptions and misunderstanding."

"There is a clear lack of knowledge and not even a nod to an awareness of the role of the male voice choir in the working-class history of Wales."

"This lack of knowledge does not apply with

## A sad day for VEST users

**WHAT a sad day for VEST bus users, which has been running a service to Cardiff for old age pensioners and disabled people since 1997.**

For some people, this is the only opportunity to get to the capital and

to go to the shops – and also to meet other people.

Unfortunately, due to falling numbers, VEST is ending this facility as from April 18, affecting pensioners from the Llantwit Major area.

The elderly are picked up from their home and returned to their house after a few enjoyable hours away, giving a feeling of some freedom.

So, if you are elderly or disabled, please think about using this valuable service. Get in touch with VEST to try and reinstate this service.

VEST is Voluntary Emergency Service Transport, telephone 029 2049 0325. Mrs Elke Jones, Llantwit Major

the funding bodies that so readily support these organisations; they will be more than aware of the importance of the role of the male voice choir in Welsh culture.

"The singing voice is a powerful instrument and the sound of a Welsh male voice choir affects millions of people on an emotional level."

"In the same way that Wales has hundreds of male voice choirs, built up initially around mining communities, there is also an abundance of female voice choirs specifically for women and, indeed, mixed voice choirs for men and women – another genre formed in small communities with its foundation in the many well attended chapels which adorned the valleys and towns around Wales."

"As a man, would I be allowed to join the Women's Institute? Or perhaps the writer of the letter could apply to become a full participating Freemason."

"In terms of the recruitment of members from LGBT+ communities and those who follow Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism or Islam, the majority of our recruitment is done via social media which is available to everyone who wants to follow the choir as well as by word of mouth and indeed, Bridgend Male Choir would welcome members from all of these communities."

"In fact, as a gay man myself, I have personal experience where the choir's management team dealt very positively with a former chorister who exhibited homophobic tendencies towards me and I feel proud to be involved with a choir who readily dealt with this matter with no collusion and in a totally appropriate manner."

"The choir also has an equal opportunities policy written into its constitution and has just appointed its first Honorary Lady Member in recognition of the importance of the support she provides to the choir."

"The diverse nature of arts and culture in the valleys is something I'm immensely proud of and I, and my peers, support each other as much as possible."

**Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon responded:**

"Choirs are part of the landscape of Wales."

"We have many different choirs, from schools to singing to combat dementia. There are mixed voice choirs and there are all women and all male choirs. The risk we run when objecting to one particular male or female only organisation is that soon we will no longer have Women's Institutes, Towns Women's Guilds, Soroptomists, or

Mothers' Unions. A sea of female faces."

"There needs to be space for people to mix, enjoy and participate in a range of activities – not all of which need to be mixed sex."

A spokesperson for and from Cowbridge Male Voice Choir, said it was considering a full response, adding: "[membership of] Cowbridge Male Voice Choir is open to all."

**Comment on social media was swift.**

On Facebook, Claire Prince wrote: "Oh gawd...the type of feminist that sets us all back a hundred years!" while Serena Williams-Nash wrote: "It's called male voice choir for a reason you stupid sexist Barry people for gods sake grow up and by the way I am a female [sic]."

Sylvia Phillips commented: "I think it's just mischief making on the part of the author," which Lizzie Ahouré herself said.

However, this mischief-making view was upheld, indeed expanded upon, by A Forbes on The GEM's website.

The commentator wrote: "Fantastic! Hats off to Lizzy [sic] for her Jedi Master level trolling of loony E & D advocates."

"Their cri de coeur is 'Equal rights and opportunities for all, especially women (but not in all cases because our culture is more important)'."

"Incidentally, Ms Moon is wrong, again. Men can join the Mothers' Union."

**GEM note: comment was requested from AMs Carwyn Jones and Jane Hutt, but none was received by the time the paper went to print.**

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# Two routes under consideration for new M4-A48 link road

**TWO possible routes for a new road linking the M4 with the A48 and Cardiff Airport have been unveiled following work undertaken for the Vale Council and funded by Welsh Government, along with proposals for a new railway station and park and ride facility.**

The routes, which would also connect junction 34 of the motorway with employment sites in the Vale, are being presented as part of a public consultation exercise designed to get feedback on the possible options.

A Vale Council spokesperson said: "The scheme would improve access from the M4 and the valleys into the heart of the Vale and western Cardiff along with Cardiff Airport and the surrounding enterprise zone, and unlock further economic development in the area."

Both routes would connect just south of junction 34 of the M4 to the A48 at Sycamore Cross and would use a section of existing road to minimise impacts on nearby woodland.

One would bypass the village of Pendoylan to the east, while the other route would bypass

Pendoylan to the west.

The estimated costs for each scheme are £81.025 million and £58.666m respectively. The eastern route is potentially more expensive given the need to take account of the floodplain.

Both would be single carriageway roads and would include segregated walking and cycling lanes and would allow for a new railway station and park and ride facility to be built close to junction 34, at an additional cost of around £25m.

Cllr John Thomas, Leader of the Council, said: "Our goal is to make the Vale a more attractive place to live, work, and do business. This scheme will achieve not only this but also bring huge benefits to the wider economy."

"Cardiff Airport is of great national significance and its growth and future success, together with the Enterprise Zone, will be vital in fuelling economic development in south Wales."

"Both of the proposed routes would also make a real difference to the lives of those living in this part of the Vale."

"The lack of an appropriate transport link between the M4 and A48 has turned the roads connecting Pendoylan and the surrounding villages into rat runs for

commuters.

"This is not good for anybody. The current road is also unfit for cyclists and pedestrians."

"We have already worked closely with local communities, via our appointed consultants, Arcadis, to draw up these initial proposals. Now we want to hear the views of as many people as possible to help decide the best way forward."

Residents and other interested groups are

being encouraged to find out more about the proposals and have their say online via the Council's website. The plans, full consultants' report, and consultation response form can all be found at [www.valeofglamor.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamor.gov.uk)

Plans will also be on show to the public for the next four weeks at the Vale Council offices.

To see the route east of Pendoylan, go to <http://www.valeofglamor.gov.uk/Documents/On1J34-10-A48/Proposed-M4-J34-Link-Eastern-Alignment.pdf>

gan.gov.uk/Documents/On1J34-10-A48/Proposed-M4-J34-Link-Eastern-Alignment.pdf

For the route west of Pendoylan, go to <http://www.valeofglamor.gov.uk/Documents/On1J34-10-A48/Proposed-M4-J34-Link-Western-Alignment.pdf>

## 'Eastern Vale faces gridlock' SAYS DINAS BY-PASS CHAIR

**"THE proposed Dinas Powys Bypass will be of considerable benefit to the whole of the Eastern Vale, including Barry, Penarth, Llandough and Sully – not just Dinas Powys," explained Rod Harrod, chair of the By-Pass Steering Group this week.**

"Nobody mentions that over half the 10,000 new homes apportioned to the Vale by the Welsh Government are within three miles of Dinas

Powys. Nearly 60 per cent of them have yet to be built.

"The Local Development Plan, initiated by the previous Vale administration, clearly states that 'highway improvement schemes will be required' to mitigate the impact of any development on the highway network."

"They must 'deliver appropriate improvements not to cause unacceptable impact on highway safety or exacerbate traffic congestion'."

"But no such plans were put in place in the drafting of the LDP that ensure the right developments have the right infrastructure to support most of the junctions or highways in the Eastern Vale."

Eventually, there will be 4,000 new homes at Barry Waterfront, 125 at the Bendricks, 500 at the Cog in Sully, another 576 in Cosmeston. Another 145 are to be built in Lower Penarth, 80 already at St Josephs and 55 at Headlands School, Penarth.

There will be 258 houses built on three different sites in Llandough – that's without 215 at St Cyres school, Dinas Powys, 70 at Caerleon Road, 50 at Cross Common Road and the 18 already at Chapters at Penny-Turpin. These and other sites were put in place by the previous administration.

"It's fine dumping this extra traffic onto existing roads, but it all aims to get somewhere. The A4055 through Dinas Powys is the only part of the Strategic Highway network in the Vale that doesn't have a by-pass around its primary settlement," said Rod Harrod.

"One councillor in the last administration said the emphasis must be on

cycling and walking. What about the elderly, infirm and those with young children? Another councillor claimed there were many by-pass objects but later admitted he wasn't against the concept."

"Of course increasing train capacity would be ideal but the Metro isn't likely to reach the Vale line for at least 10 years. Even then there are less than 20 park-and-ride facilities at Eastbrook station and none at Dinas Powys – and no available land for more."

"There are several proposals to increase the capacity of the Merrie Harrier that will be 400 per cent over-capacity by 2026. We've suggested various by-pass junctions along proposed routes for a by-pass."

"Several would relieve Sully of traffic from the soon-to-be built estate at the Cog, but ours are only suggestions. It's up to the officers and engineers to design everything. It's a pity a handful of armchair critics want to pounce on ideas without suggesting anything themselves."

"No specific route had yet been determined. The process is still going through stage two of the five-part Welsh Government evaluation."

"Every political party has recognised the need for the by-pass. However, the previous administration in the Vale discounted it from their draft Local Development Plan on the grounds there wouldn't be sufficient funds before the plan runs out in 2026, and so deleted it."

"However, if the green light wasn't given until 2026 it would be at least three if not five years before it would be built – 12 years from now. The whole of the Eastern Vale will have been gridlocked years before then."

## Cowbridge Livestock Market: a speck of hope?

**IT appears that farmers in the Vale of Glamorgan can keep a speck of hope when it comes to the livestock market in Cowbridge.**

The Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW) has long been in support of Cowbridge Livestock Market, recognising that the closure of the mart would remove a vital lifeline from the town and also make it necessary for farmers to travel far greater distances to sell their stock.

For many years now its future has been hanging in the air.

A myriad of proposals, schemes, and discussions later, Creative Rural Communities, the Vale Council's rural Local Action Group on which it sits, has committed funding for a feasibility study to identify the needs of farmers.

This is following news that the Vale Council has decided to re-develop the site on which the current livestock market is situated. Indeed, in 2013 the FUW contributed to a feasibility study in a bid to convince the Vale Council that it was profitable and vital to keep the mart open.

The recent tender process resulted in five applications from



by Rachel Saunders of the Farmers' Union of Wales

consultancy groups, and following a series of meetings and interviews with the council, farming unions, Young Farmers' Clubs and the current market operators, a local firm, PER Consulting, has been appointed to lead on the work. (See article below for more information).

The study will generally be looking at all aspects of how, where and what farmers sell. At the moment, it is only a sheep market (however, the market has historically been a cattle market, hence the name of Cowbridge). This means that cattle farmers have to travel to Carmarthen, Brecon or Raglan to sell their stock – the addition of cattle to the market would therefore certainly be a welcome change, if

it comes to fruition.

Consideration of the size and location of a new multi-purpose facility is, of course crucial, as well as any other commercial activities that could ensure future viability of the market site.

Funding, naturally, will be a huge issue and although some public funding may be obtainable, the consultants will need to look at commercial options on the site as well.

We have had many discussions on how these plans can benefit the wider rural community as well as farmers, therefore the study will consider whether commercial facilities could be built for learning, training, office space in addition to traditional agricultural functions.

The most interesting discussions, though, have been around whether processing facilities could be incorporated, thereby shortening the supply chain in this area.

All options are open and we will be sharing a survey shortly to help develop the plans further. Better watch this space.

What do GEM readers think? Please send your correspondence, with full contact details, to [editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk](mailto:editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk).

## Farmers' views sought on plans for the Vale

**A STUDY has been commissioned which aims to identify the needs of farmers and other rural businesses in and around the Vale.**

While the Vale Council considers the future regeneration of the existing livestock market and surrounding area in Cowbridge, further potential for a new food and farming hub is being explored.

"The study," said a spokesperson, "is intended to provide specific insight to the needs of local farmers, smallholders and other rural businesses and identify the type of facility and range of services that may be required to create a viable, multi-purpose livestock market, rural hub, or both in the Vale."

Project partners, including the council, FUW, NFU, Young Farmers and the current livestock market operators, have appointed PER Consulting, a local

business with experience in rural development, to lead on the independent report which will identify whether a viable alternative to the market is needed in order to meet the needs of farmers in the area.

The study has been supported by The Creative Rural Communities Local Action Group which is funded by Rural Development

Programme 2014-2020, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the Welsh Government, and by the Vale Council.

Abi Reader, a local farmer and member of the Creative Rural Communities board, said: "It is important that we explore new

ideas to support local farmers and find innovative ways to add value to our high-quality local produce."

The study will be completed by the end of August and PER Consulting will be holding face-to-face meetings with farmers, smallholders and rural business, as well as conducting online surveys.

Anyone interested in responding to the survey can obtain further details at [www.creativeruralcommunities.co.uk](http://www.creativeruralcommunities.co.uk) or contact the consultants directly at [keith@perconsulting.co.uk](mailto:keith@perconsulting.co.uk).

OM

## NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY The hives are gearing up for warmer weather

**SPRING is definitely beginning to show and despite the somewhat persistent gloomy wet weather, many flowers are now appearing.**

With the longer days and the forecasted rise in temperatures, there is going to be much more external activity from the bees.

Some feeding with liquid sugar has been carried out to eke out the dwindling winter stores and internal activity is very well underway.

The queens are laying, and I am aware of this because in the debris that falls into the under floor trays that I have on each colony, there are dead adult and immature Varroa Mites.

The presence of the pale immature mites indicates that the mites are aware of the expansion in the brood area, so as the bee numbers start to rise, so do the mite numbers.

As yet, the only colony that has been opened up has been the small colony in a nucleus box (half size hive). They are very strong and do need to go into a full sized hive now. A dry day plus a temperature of 14°C provided ideal conditions for the transfer to take place.

How was the transfer accomplished? The nucleus box and its bees were lifted just to one side of the stand that they have occupied all winter, then onto the empty stand a full-size national brood box on a mesh floor took its place – there are no frames in it yet.

The cover of the nuc-box was now removed, exposing the six frames and bees within. One by one, each frame and its company of bees was gently lifted out and placed into the centre of the new box. Two of these frames contained larvae and sealed cells containing larvae going through their metamorphosis stage.

Two more contained what was left of their winter store of food and two were just starting to be used for more storage.

This moving of the bees and frames took less than two minutes to accomplish, and more frames were added to bring the total to 11. Many bees were still in the box and many were flying around the new box.

To complete the transfer, the nuc-box was picked up and turned upside down over the new hive and gently shaken to encourage those bees within to leave and this they very obligingly did.

A feeding box containing liquid sugar was placed on top of the frames and the hive was closed up.

With the promised better conditions to come, this colony will expand and be thankful for the extra room. Roll on summer!

**HAROLD WILLIAMS**

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email [editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk](mailto:editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk) or call 01446 774484



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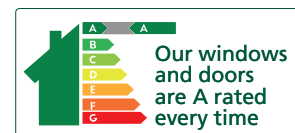
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# Out & About with The GEM

## Rampage – 'Film as fast food' says our film critic

**ANYONE** doubting Dwayne Johnson's seemingly bulletproof box office credentials after the misfire that was *Baywatch* need only look at *Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle* for proof of his drawing power.

Currently Sony's biggest film ever, with box office returns of just shy of \$1 billion worldwide, it's testament to the popularity of Johnson. His latest film sees

him tackle the world of computer-games-turned-films in *Rampage*. Johnson plays primatologist Davis Okoye, a man who shares a bond with George, an albino silverback gorilla who has been in his care since he rescued the young orphan from poachers.

But when a genetic experiment goes wrong it mutates George into a raging creature who is only getting bigger and more dangerous, and when it's discovered there are other genetically-altered animals, Okoye teams with geneticist Kate Caldwell (Naomie

Harris) to find an antidote to try and save George – and stop the other creatures...

The *Rampage* computer game saw players take control of gigantic monsters battling to stay alive as they're attacked by the military, with the aim of reducing a city to rubble. Hardly the most auspicious of properties to make the dreaded leap from game to film, yet *Rampage* the film is a silly, fun blockbuster that will occupy your brain for its running time before leaving, likely to never return.

The 'creatures destroying cities' aspect is present and correct, but what gives it more than just sheer spectacle is the presence of Dwayne Johnson, who proves yet again that no matter how dumb the subject matter, his

charisma can more often than not save the day.

There are times where the film attempts to wring more out of itself than just a big blockbuster – the backstory to Davis and George meeting, the thread of animals being experimented on by an evil corporation for nefarious means – but ultimately these fade into the mix, the big selling point being monster smackdowns and Johnson.

To that end the film is a success – the action sequences are well-executed (in particular a space-set introduction that gets the plot moving), and while cities being reduced to rubble is becoming far too common on film (and far too close to home given recent world events), director



by  
**GARETH JAMIESON**

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Brad Peyton (who directed Johnson in *San Andreas*, another city-destroying CGI spectacular) knows how to make a blockbuster film sing.

As does that man Johnson – with

charisma and charm to burn, you could easily sit and watch him read out football scores, and while ostensibly a primatologist here, he's essentially playing another version of his persona, which if you're a fan, is no bad thing at all.

It's also his character who gets the most meat on the narrative bone, his back story intriguing, while the rest of the cast sink or swim based more on their personalities than their thinly-written characters.

It works for Jeffrey Dean Morgan, who takes his *Walking Dead* character for a spin on the side of the angels with a witty and cool turn, less so for Naomie Harris who is walking plot exposition, while Malin Akerman and Jake Lacy's nefarious

corporate wrongdoers are a complete waste of time (the latter in particular, whose performance is currently the most irritating of the year so far).

But then these films are never sold, nor do they depend, on quality turns – it's all about the spectacle and *Rampage* certainly has that in spades.

Its disposability certainly means its not going to feature in any end-of-year top tens, it's most definitely not going to be under consideration for any awards, but then there are films for that.

*Rampage* is a film that just wants the audience to be entertained, to not think too much and

enjoy Dwayne Johnson battling a genetically-modified crocodile. And to that end it succeeds – just don't go pretending that it's anything that will linger once the end credits appear.

**VERDICT:** Film as fast food, *Rampage* is the sort of silly and fun blockbuster that makes for perfect disposable entertainment. Carried by the charm of Dwayne Johnson and some gloriously daft action sequences, it will keep your mind occupied and entertained for its running time and no more – which isn't a bad thing. *Enjoyable.*

**SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:** *San Andreas* (2015), *Kong: Skull Island* (2017).

## Model show to commemorate RAF 100 in Barry

**BARRY** War Museum commemorates the 100-year anniversary of the Royal Air Force with a special RAF-themed model show on Sunday, April 22.

The display will show a wide selection of RAF aircraft models, ranging from early bi-planes to

current state-of-the-art jet fighters. The museum hopes to have over 100 model aircraft on show as well as other scale models.

Barry War Museum is situated at Barry Island Railway Station.

The event begins at 10am. Admission is free and refreshments will be available to purchase from the railway station's cafe.

## What's on, and where?

**Rhoose Community Cinema**  
The next screening at Rhoose Community Cinema will be *Murder on the Orient Express* (PG) on Saturday, April 21 at 6.45pm in the Community Centre, Stewart Road.

All tickets £5; contact Jo on 07986907151 for further information.  
**Councillors' surgery**  
THE Llantwit First Independent Councillors will be holding a surgery at the Heritage Centre,

Town Hall, Llantwit Major on Saturday, April 21 from 9.30am-11.30am.

Residents who have any issue to raise are welcome to attend.  
**Valeways walks**  
ON Sunday, April 22 at 2pm, 'Round of golf and glacier walk', starting at St Peter's Church, Mill Road, Dinas Powys CF64 4BT.

On Wednesday, April 25 at 10.30pm, the Cosmeston Coffee Shop Strollers meet outside the information office at Cosmeston Country Park.

Also on April 25 at

2.30pm, the Llantwit Major Coffee Shop Strollers meet at the town hall car park.

On Thursday, April 26 at 10am, 'Lots of history', a six to seven mile walk, starts at the Bush Inn, St Hilary, CF71 7DP.

**Spring Fayre AGE CONNECTS**  
Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, Holt Road, Barry, is holding its annual spring fayre on Tuesday, April 24 from 10am to 12 noon.

The fayre will be opened by Jane Hutt AM, and admission is

free. Stalls include cakes, bric-a-brac, crafts and refreshments will be available.

Proceeds of the fayre go to Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop. Donations of bric-a-brac and raffles can be brought in week before the fayre. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

**Horticultural Society**  
THE next meeting of the Llantwit Major Horticultural Society will be on Wednesday, April 25 at 7.30pm when Kevin Thomas will be giving a demonstration on hanging baskets.

New members and guests always welcome.

**Jumble sale**  
THE 1st Dinas Powys Scout Group jumble sale is at 1.30pm on Saturday, April 28 at the Scout Hall Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4AG.

Admission 50p. Children free.

**Craft sale**  
Y BONT is holding craft sale in aid of the children's nursery which takes place at Cowbridge Lesser Hall on May 5 from 10am.

## National Garden Scheme starts year with tulip displays

**AFTER** the early spring bulbs are over, tulips arrive to bring a cheery array of colour to many National Garden Scheme gardens.

There are around 90 gardens with Tulip displays across the country for visitors to seek inspiration from or just enjoy a lovely spring walk.

The Vale has the beautiful Slade Gardens at Southerndown, open with lovely tulip and other spring flower displays.

Hidden away, Slade Garden is an unexpected jewel to discover next to the sea with views overlooking the Bristol

Channel. The garden tumbles down a valley protected by a belt of woodland.

In front of the house are delightful formal areas, a rose and clematis pergola and herbaceous borders.

From terraced lawns, great sweeps of grass stretch down the hill enlivened by spring bulbs and fritillaries. Opening on April 21 and 22 between 2pm and 5.30pm, entrance is £4.50, children are free, and there will be teas and cakes as well.

If you're on the move and looking for a garden, download the National Garden Scheme app and find a garden near you in an instant. Visit [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk) to find out more.

## Bach choir

**CARDIFF** Bach Choir's spring concert will be held at Llandaff Cathedral on Saturday, April 21 at 7.30pm.

The programme includes the *Petite Messe Solennelle* by Gioachino Rossini and *Messe Solennelle* by Louis Vierne, under the direction of Luke Spencer.

The concert will also include organ works by Vierne, played by Philip Aspdon on the recently-restored cathedral organ, which also features in the two choral works.

Tickets available at the door and full details can be found at [www.cardiffbachchoir.org.uk](http://www.cardiffbachchoir.org.uk)

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## Warming up for film night in Llantwit!

IT'S not just the weather outside that's increasingly balmy – the temperature in the Llantwit Major Library is also becoming positively cosy, despite the problems of recent weeks.

The last two Film Club meetings have been cancelled because it has proved difficult to replace a rogue part of the faulty central heating system and we couldn't ask our regular audience to bring blankets and hot water bottles as well as their usual cushions!

However, we are back to normal now and celebrate the fact, as usual, on

the first Tuesday of the month, that's Tuesday May 1, doors will be open at 7.15pm for a prompt start at 7.30pm.

Then there's another May Day celebration, this time of the life of a globally-famous British scientist. A tour-de-force starring Eddie Redmayne, the film is part biopic and part love story and we can promise you that this time, we really will need a hanky in your pocket.

We will keep your seat on a first-come, first served basis and it is yours for the price of a raffle ticket, so drop into the library soon to make sure of yours, or ring 01446 792700 to add your name to the list.

MG

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# SURVEY SCRUTINISES ST CYRES SCHOOL SITE

A MEETING, on the site of the former St Cyres School where Barratts Homes is to develop 215 properties, took place recently.

The meeting was to look at any other possible access and exit points from the site other than the use of Murch Crescent and Murch Road over the rail bridge to join the A4055 Cardiff to Barry Road.

Among those taking part were Dinas Powys Vale councillors Andy Robertson and Vince Driscoll, staff from Barratts, and Vale Council planning and highways officers.

Cllr Robertson said: "Most people were not against the houses being built if they could have waited until the Dinas Powys bypass is in place.

"We walked the area to debate any possible alternatives which the developers and council officials are going to investigate further.

"We were left in an impossible position where the previous administration had accepted Barratt's tender, subject to

planning permission.

"This meant that if planning had been refused, we were advised the developer could quite rightly have appealed the decision with the Welsh Government. Almost certainly it would have been overturned.

"That would mean Vale Council taxpayers would have been left with a huge legal bill with the development proceeding anyway."

RB



Councillors, Barratts Homes representatives, and planning and highways officers from the Vale Council at the site visit.

## Barry U3A member's talk on local history

THE members of Barry U3A are, of course, considering the purposes of the organisation, somewhat elderly – as a result, those members come with a wealth of knowledge and information.

Occasionally, a member volunteers to share some of that knowledge and this was the case at the last meeting when Mr Philip Walters gave a talk about two of Barry's most interesting buildings.

Philip is a long time resident of Barry and has personal dealings with both St Nicholas Church and the Watchtower. He said that the original St Nicholas Church (patron saint of sailors) dated from around 1250.

It was a small building at first and lasted, in its original state, virtually up until the coming of the coal industry to Barry, when it became too small to cope with the influx of people that that entailed.

It was re-built in 1876 and became twice

the size, but even so, it was not big enough.

Slowly, St Nicholas Church fell into disrepair as it stopped being used as a church after All Saints Church was built nearby.

For a time it was used by the Sea Scouts, who undertook many repairs in return for a peppercorn rent, but heating was difficult and so they moved to the new Scout Hall in 1958, and Barry Beavers still use that hall as their base today.

There are, however, still some interesting things in St Nicholas churchyard, including a 15th century font which is, unfortunately now covered in rubbish; the Celtic cross (which can be seen in a 1622 illustration), and several gravestones of smugglers who used to operate out of Barry.

Before the 'proper' docks were built, records going back to at least 1200 show that small ships operated out of the Port of Barry harbour.

The Watchtower, however, was not built

until 1864, originally to aid the coastguard whose cottages were built in 1861. Although it is difficult to see much from the watchtower from where it is positioned, it did have a place for a longboat inside it and a slipway.

The slipway needed rebuilding in 1948 and this was undertaken by Barry Scouts, but was damaged again in 2000 and has now mostly washed away.

The Watchtower is a listed building and was famously bought at auction in 2014 and now the people of Barry await the next phase of this iconic building.

If you are no longer in full time employment or raising a family, then you are in your third age and new members are very welcome to come along to our meetings, the next one being on Monday, May 14 at 2pm in Bethel Baptist Church Hall at Harbour Road on the roundabout in Park Crescent.

Telephone Christine on 01446 701537 for further details.

OC

## 'And the brass band played tiddly-om-pom-pom...'

IN January, the Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band welcomed Alice Jones as its musical director.

At her first rehearsal, she said how important it was for the band to be seen out and about in the Vale community, not only performing in concerts and on the competition stage but endeavouring to encourage people of all ages to pick up a brass

instrument and give it a try.

The Vale Band has around 20 regular attendees rehearsing at the Band Room at Barry Athletic Club on Barry Island. Members of the band recently started a junior and training band, where youngsters can come and try and learn to play brass instruments and progress into the senior band.

It was at the Evenlode Primary School Christmas concert in Penarth, last year that baritone player Philip Maumder, whose grandson Ben is learning the cornet, was asked if he would like to perform alongside the children learning brass instruments in the concert.

During a conversation with their teacher, Shirley Howman, it was discovered that the children did not really have an opportunity locally to progress musically, until they reached secondary education, by which time they might have lost their enthusiasm for playing.

Two articles appeared in The GEM at the start of this year announcing the appointment of Alice Jones and the second the

receiving of a grant from Persimmon Homes to the Evenlode PTA for improvements to the acoustics in the new hall. With that in mind and the fact the band wanted to present a concert in the spring, the seed for the concert was planted.

Mrs Howman was approached to see if a joint venture could be arranged to introduce the children to a brass band concert and it was suggested that other local schools that she taught at could be invited to join in as well. Players from Evenlode, Victoria and Sully Primary schools will be performing for the first time together as a band in their own right.

The Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band would like to play a part in their development by giving the opportunity to attend rehearsals on Monday evenings between 6pm-6.45pm.

The concert takes place on Monday, April 30 at 7.15pm in Evenlode School, Penarth CF64 3PD. Tickets from Evenlode School PTA. www.pta-events.co.uk/evenlodepta, or call 07917 796841.

All proceeds to Evenlode School PTA fundraising projects. **BR**

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# The Glamorgan GEM - 35 years and counting!



ABOVE: It was 35 years ago this month that The Glamorgan GEM first published, and from an eight-page newspaper in 1983, it has gone from strength to strength.

Bringing you the best community news and sport, and distributing over 45,000 newspapers throughout the Vale and Bridgend county borough, we truly are the Vale's longest serving community newspaper – and now you can get your news online as well, by visiting our website - [glamorgan-gem.co.uk](http://glamorgan-gem.co.uk) - and by following us on Facebook - [facebook.com/GlamorganGEM](https://www.facebook.com/GlamorganGEM) - and Twitter - [@gem\\_news](https://twitter.com/gem_news) and [@GEMSportsNews](https://twitter.com/GEMSportsNews). So, happy birthday to us – and here's to another 35 years!

## Vale AM's update on Barry incinerator

FROM the moment the Environmental Permit was granted to Biomass UK No 2, I have encouraged the people of Barry to raise their deep concerns about the risks of the incinerator.

Over the course of the last 18 months, I have attended and facilitated meetings with a wide range of agencies including, Natural Resources Wales, DIAG, Barry Town Council, Associated British Ports, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Public Health Wales, the Health and Safety Executive and the Future Generations Commissioner.

I have endeavoured to take strategic action to support the community and there remain very specific areas in which we can still argue the case against the incinerator.

Since the granting of the permit, I have concentrated on seeking an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) for the second planning application; raising this with the Environment Minister via my questions in the Assembly; the water quality in the docks; the repercussive effects of an incident at the plant; the review by the Future Generations Commissioner; the eligibility of the Biomass plant for the Renewable Obligations Certificate subsidy; and the responsibilities of the Health and Safety Executive and the Maritime Coastguard Agency.

I made the case for an EIA in direct

response to the Biomass Second Planning Application for a Fire Water Tank and Car Park (see my website for details).

This paper sets out the criteria for an EIA on the Biomass Plant at Barry Docks.

I have also met and entered into correspondence with the Health and Safety Executive and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency seeking information and assurances concerning the risk to industry on the docks estate, should an incident at the incinerator threaten a domino effect upon Dow Silicones, Hexion UK, S and K Haulage, the Bomar Quest and the Stolt Sandpiper chemical tankers that frequently visit Barry Docks with chemical cargoes.

In November 2017, I met with the Future Generations Commission Director of Policy, Legislation and Innovation. I am pleased to say that the Commissioner has announced a review of how the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act applies to NRW's environmental permitting decisions.

I have written again to the Commissioner assuring her of my assistance and have sent her my paper on EIA Criteria and my more extensive Impact Assessment over the last 18 months.

I will continue my efforts to support community opposition to the incinerator.

Jane Hutt  
AM for Vale of Glamorgan.



Pupils from Barry Comprehensive, Bryn Hafren Comprehensive, Stanwell and St Cyres School with David Davies, head of achievement in the Vale Council, Cllr Bob Penrose, cabinet member for learning and culture, and Daley Chapman, deputy youth mayor 2017-18.

## Council is working on pupils' rights charter

**Pupils from Barry Comprehensive, Bryn Hafren Comprehensive, Stanwell and St Cyres School united to share their views on creating a new pupil participation strategy for the Vale.**

Organised by David Davies, head of achievement in the Vale Council, the aim of the event was to raise awareness of 'The Right Way: A Children's Rights Approach to Education in Wales' by the office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

The Children's Commissioner for Wales, Sally Holland, had recorded a video

message for the pupils, thanking them for their participation, as the Vale's vision was created based on recommendations she made to councils and schools across Wales.

The five promises from 'The Right Way' included empowering children, embedding children's rights, equality, non-discrimination, accountability and participation.

Cllr Bob Penrose, cabinet Member for learning and culture, opened the event and said: "As school council members, each one of you is already playing an important part in serving our communities – and I would like to thank you for that."

"I am always very encouraged whenever

I see young people being active citizens, working to help make the Vale an even better place for us all to live in. It gives me confidence in the future; you give me confidence in our future."

The Vale Council's Deputy Mayor, Cllr Leighton Rowlands, closed the event, and said: "Our new Participation Strategy is going to be bold, ambitious, and aspiring. As Youth Champion in the Vale, I am determined that it will achieve all that we have promised."

"All your opinions and ideas will be taken into account when we're writing the final version of our strategy."

## Barry Comprehensive pupils visit Auschwitz



Auschwitz in the snow.

IN February, two Barry Comprehensive School year-12 students, Seren Ewington and Cain Gannon, with Ms Bertheux, took part in the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons From Auschwitz project.

This began with an orientation seminar at the Mercure Cardiff Holland House Hotel, where students heard the testimony of Holocaust survivor Eva Clarke. Eva was born at Mauthausen Concentration Camp in 1945 and being born at the end of the war, she told her mother's story.

While Eva's mother survived the Holocaust, she put it down to 'luck' that she survived. Her father was shot and killed. At the time of Eva's birth, her mother weighed just 5 stone. However, Mauthausen was liberated, and both mother and baby survived.

After the testimony, Eva took part in a Q&A session, where she was able to give her and her mother's unique insight into things such as the war, the Holocaust and Holocaust deniers.

The next stage was a air flight to Poland, and a visit to the town of Oswiecim, Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau.

Oswiecim, which was renamed Auschwitz by the Nazis, holds a museum of Jewish life in the area. We were told about lives of Jewish people there, to ensure every victim of the Holocaust is remembered as an individual, not just one of the 6 million.

We then took the short journey to Auschwitz I. Here, we were guided around the barracks which have been converted into museums, showing

items such as suitcases, wedding rings and hair.

The mounds of clothes and shoes, prominently displaying children's outfits, were particularly touching. On entry we walked under the infamous 'Arbeit Macht Frei' sign, 'work makes you free'.

We then continued on to Auschwitz II-Birkenau. Birkenau is where approximately 90 per cent of all those who died on the Auschwitz complex were murdered. We were able to see the remnants of the barracks, which went on as far as we could see in the weather, as well as the gas chambers and adjoining crematoria.

To be stood in the very place where so many thousands lost their lives was an incredibly moving experience. Past the wreckage of the crematoria, a gallery has been set up with hundreds of photos of those who were taken to, and often killed, at Auschwitz-Birkenau. This was another reminder to humanise the '6 million' figure.

While we were there, the temperature remained below freezing for the whole trip. We struggled with the weather, which only increased our empathy for those forced to endure these circumstances and worse, with no shoes and thin clothing.

It is fair to say all those who went on the trip were in disbelief that anyone could endure and survive.

The follow-up seminar gave those who attended an opportunity to reflect on their experience and their feelings after visiting Poland.

It was resoundingly agreed that this was an experience which would never be forgotten, and which has changed everyone's lives, forever.

CAIN GANNON

## Police appeal after woman is punched and robbed in Barry

**SOUTH WALES Police is appealing for information about a robbery on George Street in Barry on Saturday, April 14 between 00.45 hours and 00.50 hours in the early hours of the morning.**

A female was walking from Evelyn Street to Digby Street and when she crossed Holton Road to reach George Street, she was aware of two men walking on Holton Road towards her and was aware of them following her into George Street.

The victim then turned to see who was behind her and one of the men punched her in the face and body

several times before stealing her bag and making off.

He is described as white, wearing a hooded top with the hood worn up and possibly jogging bottoms.

Sometime later, the bag was found between Robert Street and Wilfred Street in Barry and was handed into Barry Police Station.

Officers are appealing to anyone who may have witnessed two men acting suspiciously in these locations to contact them or anyone that believes they may have information in relation to this crime, to contact them on 101 quoting ref: 1800129538 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## South Wales fitness awards

**THE South Wales Fitness Awards is proud to announce that applications are open for the 2018 South Wales Fitness Awards.**

The awards, now in their second year, celebrate the best in Welsh fitness. This year's awards are to be hosted by Capital FM's Polly James on June 20 at the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge.

Co-founder of the South Wales Fitness Awards, Wesley Skene, said: "South Wales has many outstanding fitness enthusiasts and fitness businesses. The fitness community is one of the guiding lights in Welsh society. We are delighted to offer a platform for them to showcase their talents."

Applications for the South Wales Fitness Awards close on Friday, May 11. To find out how to apply, log on to [www.southwalesfitnessawards.co.uk](http://www.southwalesfitnessawards.co.uk).



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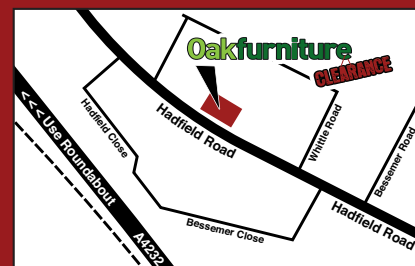
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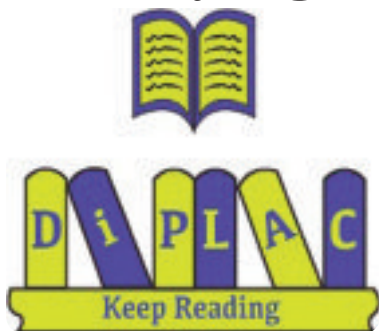






Trustee Keith Hatton presents Rianna Mitchell with her award.

## Local student designs new Dinas Powys library logo



The winning logo.

Dinas Powys Library and Activity Centre – 'DIPLAC' – has a new logo, thanks to a competition organised with local schools.

Rianna Mitchell, of Dinas Powys Primary School (DPPS), won the first prize and a digitised version of her design is now being used on all the library's publicity material.

Barbara Daniels, Sue Williams, Keith Hatton and Don Clarey, members of the library in Dinas Powys, announced the competition last November.

They judged the entries and presented the awards at last month.

"We were very impressed with the standard of entries," said Mr Hatton, a trustee of the library.

"In decision-making, we had to strictly rely on the guidelines we set about shape, lettering, colours and readability."

Gabriella Operanta and Dylan Lingham-Gollop, both of DPPS, won second and third prize respectively. All the winners were presented with vouchers and certificates.

The digital version of Miss Mitchell's logo was produced by Danny Sullivan, a pupil of Stanwell School in Penarth, as part of a Welsh Baccalaureate project with the library. **LS**

## All I want for Christmas is...

**C**OWBRIDGE residents have one MP, five AMs, three county Councillors and 14 town councillors, all responsible to an electorate of over 5,000 residents who, once again, have no post office, which has been closed for over two of the last four years.

Residents wishing to post a parcel or non-standard letter have to

travel to Llantwit Major, Pencoed or Bridgend.

A relevant question to candidates for the next elections would be "What did you do to try to permanently restore the Cowbridge post office?"

In the meantime, our representatives may wish to let us know what actions they have taken so far, why they have not been successful and how the objective is going to be achieved before next Christmas.

**Chris Pearce,**  
Cowbridge

## Glamorgan cricketer will coach at Cathedral School

**FORMER** England and Glamorgan cricketer Simon Jones MBE is the latest addition to the Cathedral School sports coaching team.

Simon, who played international cricket for England 18 times and was an integral member of the 2005 winning Ashes side, will become sports coach next month.

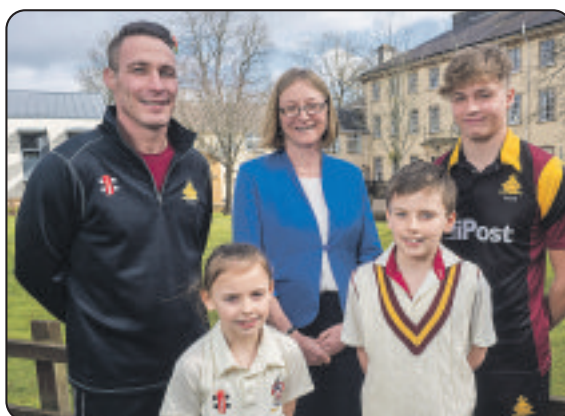
Simon joins the Cathedral School as cricket is introduced at the school this year for girls. Working with Cricket Wales throughout the winter in preparation, the girls' coaching staff will also benefit from Simon's expertise.

On his appointment, Simon Jones said: "I am really looking forward to working at the Cathedral School. The commitment and enthusiasm from the pupils I have met so far is very impressive. With one of the most picturesque cricket squares in Wales, I am very much looking forward to the season ahead."

Director of sport at the Cathedral School, Mark Barrington added: "Simon is a fantastic addition to our sports coaching staff, giving our pupils the opportunity to learn from someone who has played sport at the highest level."

Other members of the sports team include Nia Jones, who will represent Wales at the Commonwealth Games in netball and former pupil Adam Roscrow, who represented Wales C in football this week.

Clare Sherwood, head of the Cathedral School



From left: Simon Jones MBE, Clare Sherwood, head of the Cathedral School, William Youngs, First XI Cricket Captain and Primary pupils, Imogen and Ben Smart.

said: "As a keen player and supporter of cricket, I am delighted to welcome Simon to the school. His international experience and skills will undoubtedly play an important role as we embark on girls' cricket this summer, building on our already established sporting tradition."

This season the Cathedral School will host the MCC in May following the successful inaugural match last year, as well as the MCCU v Gloucestershire CCC and the first Cathedral School's 1st XI Festival.

The Simon Jones Cricket Academy will run at the Cathedral School during school holidays for budding cricketers, girls and boys, aged 6-13. For further details, email [simonjonescricket@gmail.com](mailto:simonjonescricket@gmail.com).

## Artists visit Rhoose WI

**PRESIDENT** Jenny Reed welcomed Rhoose WI members and visitors to the first meeting since February, the snow having forced the cancellation of the March meeting.

There were two items on the agenda – the first was a short talk by two artists, funded by developers, Taylor Wimpey, who wanted to inform local people of a number of workshops taking place which would gather ideas for sculptures that would ultimately be displayed in the village.

The main speaker of the evening was Novello Peters from the Glamorgan Federation, who talked about the charity, Associated Women of the World (ACWW).

This worldwide organisation seeks to help women in poorer parts of the world by identifying projects through which local women can be trained to develop skills, enabling them to earn a living within their community.

This expertise, in turn, enables them to pass their skills onto others, thus hopefully improving life for more women and their families.

This year, the GFWI project is to help women in Guatemala, who live very near a rubbish dump, to improve their lives. Novello was appealing to the WI to

raise funds to support the project during the coming year. The talk was well received and a substantial collection made. Sheila Griffiths gave a vote of thanks to Novello.

Other business: members were told that the educational trip will take place on July 11. This will take the form of a visit to the Cotswolds where members will call at Winchcombe and later tour Sudeley Castle. Members were reminded that they need to pay a non-returnable deposit of £5 when adding their names to the list.

A group will attend the GFWI annual meeting at Port Talbot on April 24 and a number are planning to attend the National Federation meeting in Cardiff on June 6.

During April, the regular Rhoose WI clubs will meet as follows: skittles on the 20th, craft were on the 18th, and lunch at the Highwayman on the 27th. Coffee mornings as usual on Tuesdays at Coffee Time.

The next meeting of Rhoose WI will be the annual meeting and cheese and wine evening on May 3 at 7.30pm in the Community Hall, Stewart Road.

New members and visitors will be very welcome to join us. Contact number 01446711384.

**JJ**

## Fodder Bank for farmers relaunches

**THE NFU and NFU Cymru are relaunching their online Fodder Bank to help members find animal feed for their farms, or sell any surplus to assist others, after wet weather has seen farmers in many parts of the UK experience shortages of feed availability for livestock, resulting in additional costs.**

The wet weather and late spring have seen livestock and dairy producers unable to turn out stock due to a lack of grass growth and available forage, leading to the increased need for supplementary feed and additional costs.

Arable farmers have also experienced delays in spring cultivations and drilling where the ground is too wet to travel.

NFU Cymru President John Davies said: "During this particularly difficult time for many farmers, it is vital that government lends its support to ensure farmers

are able to continue managing their businesses effectively, which means producing the food that feeds the nation.

"I am hearing from farmers who say that the sustained wet weather has meant very few have been able to turn out their livestock, and this has led to increasing difficulty sourcing available forage."

"In addition to the NFU and NFU Cymru relaunching their Fodder Bank to help their members, we will also be discussing impacts of the wet weather and any support needed with industry and government."

"As well as contributing £112 billion to the UK economy and providing 3.8 million jobs, food and farming underpins rural communities and it is during these difficult times that the support of both government and the wider industry is so important."

Visit [www.nfuonline.co.uk/fodderbank](http://www.nfuonline.co.uk/fodderbank).

**FG**

## 'RABI here to help farmers in times of crisis'

**M**ANY farmers are currently facing fodder shortages and flooding, serious problems that impact on their ability to feed animals and plant crops.

In some regions, persistent and heavy rains have followed on swiftly from extreme snowfalls.

To make matters worse, current weather-related problems come while many are in the midst of lambing and calving.

The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) has been around since 1860, and is farming's oldest and largest welfare charity. In 2017, we gave out grants of close to £2 million to people of all ages in financial need.

We have welfare officers across Wales and England who understand the current difficulties.

Our welfare officer for Northumberland and Durham, for example, recently reported that many people in his area had lost sheep in snow drifts and were dreading the prospect of lambing. Numbers are likely to

be down, which will have a knock-on effect later in the year when they come to sell their stock.

It's been a long, wet winter and the grass hasn't started to grow yet. That means there could be extra feed costs, an expense farmers wouldn't normally expect to have at this time of year.

We know from our welfare team on the ground that many in the industry – from different sectors and in various parts of the UK – are anxious about the effects of weather-related problems.

During a crisis, RABI can help those in financial hardship by providing grants for immediate domestic and household expenses. While we cannot help specifically with business costs, if the harsh winter has left you, or someone you know who works in farming, unable to pay household bills, please call our confidential Freephone Helpline number 0808 281 9490.

**Paul Burrows, RABI Chief Executive**

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For more information on Mindy, visit the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in Bridgend, CF31 4NG; or give us call on 01656 725219. You can also visit the website at [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk).

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## Win an MG in the Big Birthday Raffle

A NEW car worth more than £10,000 is up for grabs in the Tenovus Cancer Care Big Birthday Raffle.

Launched as part of the charity's 75th anniversary celebrations, the aim of the raffle is to raise £75,000 to help fund Tenovus Cancer Care's research, treatment and support.

A spokesperson said: "The raffle is supported by Nathaniel Car Sales, which has kindly supplied a MG 3Form Sport worth more than £10,000 to be given away as the top prize.

Tenovus Cancer Care fundraiser Alexandra Smith, said: "In the 1960s, the 10 founders of Tenovus, as it was originally known, donated a car to be raffled to raise money for a care home for the elderly that was in financial difficulties.

"Now, more than 50 years later with the charity celebrating its 75th year, we are excited to be giving away a car that will help raise funds so we can deliver our



*Pictured left to right at the launch are: Alexandra Smith, Tenovus Cancer Care fundraiser; Scott Baldwin; Ospreys and Wales; and Wayne Griffiths' Nathaniel Cars managing director.*

services where patients and their loved ones need us the most, in the heart of the community.

"Selling just 20 tickets will pay for our dedicated cancer support line for one hour and helps fund a service that is available every day of the year for cancer patients and their loved ones.

"Everyone at Tenovus

Cancer Care would like to say a big thank you to Wayne Griffiths at Nathaniel Cars for supporting the Big Birthday Raffle."

Tickets for the Big Birthday Raffle cost £2 and can be bought in any Tenovus Cancer Care, through the Friends of Tenovus groups and at the charity's events throughout the summer and online.

The top prize is the MG 3Form Sport, second prize is a family holiday at a Watermark's lakeside lodge, and there are five chances to win a £50 John Lewis voucher. TCC

## HELP FOR SSAFA FROM COTTRELL PARK SENIORS



*Terry Hoggett, Lieutenant Commander Julian Salisbury, Captain Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, Sam Smith, Dave Parry (society secretary).*

**COTTRELL Park Seniors' Golf Society 2017 captain, Sam Smith, presented a cheque for £900 to the SSAFA - The Armed Forces Charity (formerly Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association), Cardiff and the Vale Branch, on Thursday, April 12 at Cottrell Park.**

SSAFA exists to relieve need, suffering and distress amongst the Armed Forces, veterans and their families in order to support their independence and dignity.

Money was collected via a variety of raffles and competitions organised and run by the society committee throughout the year.

## Ramblers' enjoy Easter walks

**WITH the clocks going forward, it also heralds the start of the Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers' summer programme.**

The Easter weekend was a busy one, two walks were on offer, one on Easter Sunday and another one on Easter Monday.

The walk on Easter Sunday was a local eight-mile walk, starting at Marine Drive, Barry. The group walked down the Knap, enjoying the spring flowers, passing the lake which is in the shape of a Welsh Harp, before making our way past the Gorsedd Stones which were evidence of the Eisteddfod in Barry in 1920.

Making our way down to Portcheri Park, which being a nice day, was teeming with families enjoying the weekend. This was our coffee stop before making our way along the coastal path

towards Rhooose Point where we enjoyed our lunch, together with Easter eggs which were provided by one of the group.

Making our way back towards Barry, we were eagerly looking forward to the promised tea/coffee and homemade cake which was to be provided by our leader, Mary Tornabene.

Our Easter Monday walk was one of a different nature altogether. The walk was led by Gwion Evans, a 13-mile walk in the Brecon Beacons.

Starting from Llangorse Lake, the group, despite the promised wet day, were lucky to escape the rain, although it was a very muddy walk.

The proposed route had to be re-thought, as the stile that should have been crossed was only accessible either by boat or swimming to it. Thank goodness

for Plan B.

Spring is the celebration of new life, but unfortunately for the Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers, we had to say goodbye to one of our members. Mike Carey, sadly passed away at Holme Towers, Penarth, shortly before Easter.

Mike was a committed member of the group. He was chair of the committee he led walks, organised weekends away, meeting members and genuinely loved being outdoors.

It was with great sadness that we had this news, but hope to inspire his love of the outdoors continually by offering a varied programme throughout the year.

Follow us on Twitter, and on Facebook. www.valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk.

**Gwenda Fitzpatrick (Publicity officer)**

## DINAS POWYS PLAY

**DINAS POWYS PLAYERS present 'Murder Mystery' at the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys at 7.30pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 19-21.**

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## Family Notices

### CLEMETT

#### Brian Christopher

Peacefully at his home on 11th April, Brian, of Dobbins Road, Barry. Much loved partner of Jackie. Much loved dad of Chris, Gareth and Becky.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral service and committal at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Wednesday, 25th April at 10am. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers to Marie Curie Cancer Care (Holme Tower), Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

### LEE

#### Nathan

Suddenly on 1st April, Nathan, aged 34 years, of St Athan. Devoted father of Harvey, loving son of Viv and Karen, dear brother of Anna, Joanne and Sarah and a much loved grandson.

Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Thursday, 26th April, service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.15pm, where friends please meet.

Family flowers only, donations, if so desired, for Action for Children c/o W.H. Preene & Son, Mwyndy, Pontyclun, CF72 8PN. Tel. 01443 223368.

### SPILLER

#### Marina

Peacefully on 26th March at Milsom House, St Athan. Marina, beloved wife of the late Dennis, devoted mother of Mike, Steve and Janette, much loved mother-in-law of Jane and Debbie. Loving grandmother to all her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Service in celebration of her life on 27th April at 11am at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations if desired to Marie Curie or Macmillan Cancer Support c/o P. James, W. James & Sons, Fommon.

### THOMAS

#### Maywin

Yn dawel ar 9fed Ebrill 2018, Maywin Thomas, gynt o Dŷ Gofal Orchard House Barri a chyn hynny o 287 Heol Gladstone Barri. Gweddw gariadus y diweddar Ifor Thomas a mam yndod ofalgar Catrin a Gareth, mam-yinghyfraith garedig Linda a mamgu hoff Catrin Haf a Heledd Wyn.

Cynhelir gwasanaeth i ddiolch am fywyd Maywin yng Nghapel Tabernacl Sgwâr y Brenin Barri ar ddydd Iau 26ain o Ebrill am 11.30 ac wedyn yn yr Amlogfa ar Port Road East Barri am 13.00. Blodau'r teulu yn unig os gwelwch yn dda. Rhoddion, pe dymunir, er cof am Maywin ar ran Barnardo's Cymru neu Soroptimist International Barry and District, trwy law'r Ymgymwrs, i'w casglu ar y diwrnod, gyda diolch.

Peacefully on 9th April 2018, Maywin Thomas, late of Orchard House Care Home, Barry and formerly of 287 Gladstone Road, Barry. Much loved widow of the late Ivor Thomas and deeply caring mother of Catrin and Gareth, kind mother-in-law of Linda and fond grandmother of Catrin Haf and Heledd Wyn.

A service of thanksgiving for Maywin's life will be held at Tabernacl Chapel, King Square, Barry on Thursday 26th April 2018 at 11.30am, and thereafter at the Crematorium on Port Road East Barri at 1pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if so desired, gratefully received in Maywin's memory on behalf of Barnardo's Cymru or on behalf of Soroptimist International Barry and District, c/o the Funeral Director, to be collected on the day.

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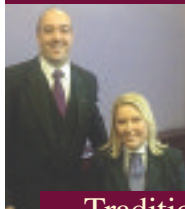
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### MASON

#### Dawn

Suddenly on 29th March at home, Dawn, well known of Barry, sadly passed away. Devoted partner of Craig, much loved mum of Lisa, a cherished nannie of McKenzie and Jacob. Dearly loved daughter of Sid and Nina, loving sister of Leslie, Andrew and the late Jeanette. Much loved aunt to all of her nieces and nephews.

*She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.*

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Friday, 27th April at 3pm.

Family flowers only by request.

Further enquiries contact Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

### LACEY

#### Philomena Mary (née Doran)

Phyl passed away peacefully at her home in Llantwit Major, a dearly loved Mum and Gran. Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare until the service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, 27th April 2018 at 2.45pm.

Family flowers only please. Donations, if wished, may be sent directly to Marie Curie Hospice, Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

### WILLIAMS

#### Angela Dilys (née Matthews)

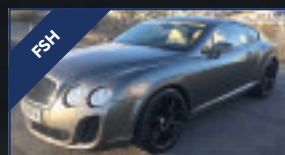
It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of Angie, Darling wife of Terry, cherished sister of Ennis and beloved daughter of Olga and the late John Matthews.

The funeral will take place at The West Berkshire Crematorium on Thursday, 26th April at 11.15am. A memorial service will be held at The Tabernacl Chapel, Kings Square, Barry on Thursday, 3rd May at 2.30pm.







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2014 (63) BMW X3 2.0 20d M Sport xDrive 5dr, white, JUST 1 OWNER FSH LEATHER PDC, MT63WNM ..... £16,995



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2015 (15) Land Rover Range Rover Sport 4.4 SD V8 Autobiography Dynamic 4X4 (s/s) 5dr, red, 33,000 miles, 4.4 SD V8 ADAPTIVE 21"ALLOYS, OV15FJC ..... £49,990



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16 66 VOLVO XC60 2.4 D4 SE Lux Nav Estate 4X4 Gearbox, Volvo warranty Sep 2019, sat nav, 15k, silver, full leather  
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16 16 BMW X5 XDRIVE 3.0 DM Sport 5dr automatic, widescreen sat nav, M sport plus pack, 18k, met grey with full leather  
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14 64 MERCEDES GLA220 CDI AMG Line Premium Plus 5dr 7G-DCT 4Matic, pan roof, 19" alloys, reverse camera, 26k, red, half-leather  
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15 65 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI BlueMotion Tech R 5dr 4WD (300bhp), cruise, xenons, 18k, black  
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16 16 BMW 740 D XDRIVE M Sport 4dr automatic (315bhp), BMW warranty June 2019, Premium package, 20" alloys, head-up display, electric glass sunroof, 18k, white, full leather  
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11 61 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD KX-2 AWD 5dr automatic, pan roof, cruise, Bluetooth, black, half-leather  
**£9995**

- 16 16 AUDI A3 1.6 TDI Quattro Sport 4dr, Audi warranty April 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, 18" alloys, 13k, white .....**£16995**  
 15 15 AUDI A7 3.0 TDI Quattro S-Line 5dr S-Tronic, 20" alloys, sat nav, 30k, silver, full leather .....**£25995**  
 14 64 AUDI Q5 2.0 TDI Quattro S-Line Plus 5dr S-Tronic, sat nav, privacy glass, 33k, met blue, full leather .....**£22995**  
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 14 64 BMW 120 D M Sport XDRIVE 5dr (184bhp) Bluetooth, cruise, PDC, 30k, blue .....**£12995**  
 13 63 BMW 330 D M Sport XDRIVE 4dr automatic, sat nav, cruise, black, full merino leather .....**£15995**  
 16 16 BMW 330D XDRIVE M Sport GT 5dr automatic, BMW warranty March 2019, sat nav, 19" alloys, 19k, black, full leather .....**£22495**  
 16 65 BMW 335 DXDRIVE M Sport 5dr automatic, 19" Alloys, widescreen sat nav, 23k, met grey, full leather .....**£22995**  
 16 16 BMW 335d XDRIVE M Sport Estate automatic (313bhp), BMW warranty May 2019, sat nav, DAB, 23k, white, full leather .....**£22495**  
 16 16 BMW 335 DXDRIVE M Sport GT 5dr automatic, sat nav, full leather .....**£21995**  
 15 64 BMW 420 D M Sport XDRIVE Gran Coupe 5dr automatic, pro sat nav, 19" alloys, Harman kardon, full leather, met black .....**£21495**  
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 16 65 BMW 420D XDRIVE D M Sport Gran Coupe 5dr automatic (190bhp), BMW warranty Feb 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, privacy glass, full leather, 23k, grey .....**£20995**  
 16 16 BMW 435 DXDRIVE 3.0 M Sport 2dr Coupe automatic, widescreen sat nav, M sport plus pack, 18k, met grey with full leather .....**£26995**  
 16 16 BMW 740 D XDRIVE M Sport 4dr automatic (315bhp), BMW warranty June 2019, Premium package, 20" alloys, head-up display, electric glass sunroof, 18k, white, full leather .....**£42995**  
 16 66 BMW X1 20D M Sport XDRIVE 5dr automatic, BMW warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, heated seats, grey .....**£21995**  
 16 16 BMW X3 XDRIVE 35D M Sport 5dr automatic, 20" alloys, sat nav, 15k, white with full leather .....**£29995**  
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 14 64 MERCEDES GLA220 CDI AMG Line Premium Plus 5dr 7G-DCT 4Matic, pan roof, 19" alloys, reverse camera, 26k, red, half-leather .....**£20995**  
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 15 65 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI BlueMotion Tech R 5dr 4WD (300bhp), cruise, xenons, 18k, black .....**£19795**  
 16 16 VOLVO XC60 2.0 TD D4 SE Lux 5dr 4WD Geartronic, Volvo warranty March 2019, sat nav, 18" alloys, 17k, magic blue, full leather .....**£21995**  
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16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRDI Axis Edition 5dr, Kia warranty March 2023, sat nav, heated seats, cruise, 18k, choice, full leather	£14495
16 16 MERCEDES A200d AMG Line 5dr, 18" alloys, reverse camera, 23k, silver, half leather	£16995
16 16 MERCEDES B180 CDI SE 5dr 7G-DCT, Mercedes warranty Aug 2019, reverse camera, alloys, 7k, met blue, full leather	£14495
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16 16 MERCEDES C220d AMG Line 4dr, Mercedes warranty July 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, met blue, full leather	£20495
16 16 MERCEDES C220d AMG Line Premium 2dr 9G-Tronic Plus, Mercedes warranty April 2019, panoramic roof, sat nav, 18" alloys, 19k, white, full leather	£26995
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16 16 MERCEDES C250d AMG Line 2dr 9G-Tronic Plus, Mercedes warranty June 2019, pan roof, sat nav, 18k, black, full leather	£27995
16 16 MERCEDES C350e Sport 4dr automatic, Mercedes warranty August 2019, panoramic roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 11k, choice, full leather	£23995
15 15 MERCEDES CLA200 CDI AMG Sport 4dr, sat nav, xenons, privacy glass, red, half leather	£17495
15 65 MERCEDES CLS220d AMG Line 4dr automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, 19" alloys, xenons, 19k, black, full leather	£22995
15 65 MERCEDES BENZ E220 CDI BlueTEC SE 4dr 7G-Tronic Plus, Mercedes warranty Oct 2018, sat nav, 17" alloys, 20k, silver, full leather	£17495
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15 15 SEAT IBIZA 1.2 TSI FR 3dr, sat nav, 17" alloys, cruise, 16k, met blue	£8795
17 67 SEAT LEON 1.6 TSI SE Dynamic Technology Estate, Seat warranty Sep 2020, sat nav, 17" alloys, PDC, 7k, grey	£13995
15 65 SKODA FABIA 1.2 TSI Monte Carlo 5dr, Skoda warranty Sep 2018, pan roof, black alloys, race blue	£8795
15 65 SMART FORFOUR 1.0 Prime Premium 5dr, sat nav, pan roof, 6k, met yellow, two tone black with full leather	£7495
15 64 TOYOTA AURIS 1.8 VVT-i Excel e-CVT 5dr 5dr automatic, Toyota warranty Feb 2020, sat nav, heated seats, 11k, white	£14995
17 17 TOYOTA C-Hr 1.8 Icon CVT 5dr automatic, Toyota warranty Aug 2022, reverse camera, heated seats, 12k, grey, full leather	£21495
15 65 VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 2.0 CDTi SRI 3dr, Vauxhall warranty Oct 2018, 18" alloys, cruise, 23k, yellow	£8995
14 14 VAUHAL CORSA 1.2i SE 5dr, cruise, heated seats, 28k, blue	£5795



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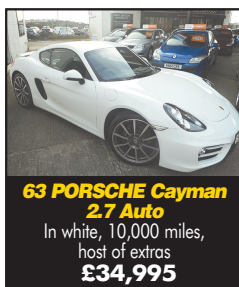
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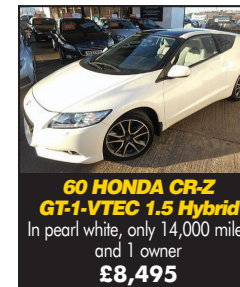
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- 10 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Titanium 3-Dr In electric blue, 51,000 miles, bluetooth, £20 road tax ..... **£4,995**
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- 10 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 3-Dr. In electric blue, 46,000 miles ..... **£4,995**
- 59 MINI Cooper Convertible In cream white with brown leather and hood ..... **£4,695**
- 09 SKODA Octavia 1.9 Diesel TDi Ambiente Auto Estate In met blue, 39,000 miles ..... **£4,995**
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- 09 SEAT Ibiza Sport 1.4 5-Dr. In met. grey, only 42,000 miles, 1 owner ..... **£4,495**
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## Vale of Glamorgan Football League round-up

**AFTER seven weeks of rain and water logged pitches, the Vale League returned with a full program.**

In the past seven weeks only a smattering of clubs have been lucky enough to play one game, the weather causing huge disruption to the league and cups with games that should have been played back in January being played this past weekend.

So it was the ASRS Cup, Supporters Cup and Dockers Cup that took centre stage as the season recommenced.

In the quarter-finals of the historic ASRS Cup, Barry Belgrade thumped Rhose 5-1 in what many had predicted to be a close affair but the Belgrade juggernaut ploughed on to the semi-finals.

Island Marine will be their opponents in the semi-finals on Saturday, after they dispatched Penarth Town 4-1. Barry Athletic progressed in a tricky away tie as they defeated Cowbridge Town 4-1 to set up a semi-final clash with St Athan.

In the Supporters Cup first round, Penarth Town edged out Cadoxton Athletic in a nine goal thriller, winning 5-4.

In another thrilling first round match, Cwm Talwg and Cadoxton Imps played out a 3-3 draw and needed penalties to separate the sides, with Cwm Talwg winning the penalty shoot out.

In the quarter-finals of the competition, Tynwydd stunned high-flying Barry Saints 2-1 to go to the semi-finals while Cogan booked their final four spot with a 2-0 victory over SP Billy.

In the Dockers Cup, BV picked up their first win since October to defeat St Athan 2-1 to go into the semi-finals.

In the sole league fixture in Division Two, Rhose B narrowly lost out 1-0 to Island Marine B. Marine B leapfrogging their opponents into fifth spot. After a full fixture list last night (Wednesday) there are more cup games on Saturday as the league plays catch up.

HD

## The Barry and District League tables and results

### CRIB DIVISION 1:

Cadoxton Cons Z 2, West End C 3; Liberals 9; Wyndham Cons 11, Moors Boys 4; West End Runaways 6, Rhose Social 9.

League table: Harbour B 108, Savoy A 91, Wyndham Cons A 68, Cadoxton Cons Z 65, Cadoxton Cons B 62, Cadoxton Cons 158, West End 150, Moors Boys 148.

### SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

King William XII 5, West End D 2; Rugby Club 1, Sea View B 6; Rhose Social A 1/2, Allsorts 6 1/2; Rhose Social B 6, Barry Town FC 1; Rhose Social 5 1/2, Liberals A 1 1/2; Barries Boys 2, West End C 5; Liberals C 2, Rhose Social C 5; Cambrian Flyers 1, Slammers 6.

League table: Sea View B 118.5, West End D 110.5, Rugby Club 99.0, West End C 96.5, Rhose Social C 92.5, King William XII, 87.0, Rhose Social B 86.5, Rhose Social A 79.5, Slammers 78.0, Allsorts 76.5, Barry Town FC 71.5, Liberals C 62.5, Liberals A 61.5, Cambrian Flyers 50.5, \*Barries Boys 49.0.

### SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

King William XII 5, West End D 2; Rugby Club 1, Sea View B 6; Rhose Social A 1/2, Allsorts 6 1/2; Rhose Social B 6, Barry Town FC 1; Rhose Social 5 1/2, Liberals A 1 1/2; Barries Boys 2, West End C 5; Liberals C 2, Rhose Social C 5; Cambrian Flyers 1, Slammers 6.

League table: Sea View B 118.5, West End D 110.5, Rugby Club 99.0, West End C 96.5, Rhose Social C 92.5, King William XII, 87.0, Rhose Social B 86.5, Rhose Social A 79.5, Slammers 78.0, Allsorts 76.5, Barry Town FC 71.5, Liberals C 62.5, Liberals A 61.5, Cambrian Flyers 50.5, \*Barries Boys 49.0.

### SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

King William XII 5, West End D 2; Rugby Club 1, Sea View B 6; Rhose Social A 1/2, Allsorts 6 1/2; Rhose Social B 6, Barry Town FC 1; Rhose Social 5 1/2, Liberals A 1 1/2; Barries Boys 2, West End C 5; Liberals C 2, Rhose Social C 5; Cambrian Flyers 1, Slammers 6.

JW

## ALL STARS CRICKET HITS THE VALE FOR SIX!



**All Stars Cricket is coming to the Vale to give girls and boys from the ages of five to eight an opportunity to become a star.**

The curriculum of fun cricket activities and games provides children with the basic movement skills to begin a lifelong love of cricket.

Starting in May the All Stars programme will provide fun and friendly activities for one hour over an eight-week period.

Activators have been fully trained and vetted and will deliver game-based activities that teach basic cricket skills including catching, throwing and hitting moving balls and social skills such as teamwork and communication.

Held at accredited cricket clubs, the All Stars

programme is the perfect way for children to learn about cricket and make friends in a safe and, most importantly, fun environment.

All participants will receive an All Stars Cricket branded pack including a cricket bat, ball, personalised shirt, cap, backpack and activity booklet.

All Stars Cricket is a great place for parents and children to learn about the game together, with a programme that offers parents support and skills that can be played in the back garden or on the beach.

In the Vale, Sully Centurions, Sully Spartans, Penarth, Barry Wanderers, Dinas Powys and Barry Athletic will be offering the All Stars programme.

Parents and carers can find out all they need to know about All Stars and sign their children up to the programme by logging on at [www.allstarscricket.co.uk](http://www.allstarscricket.co.uk)

Mark Ellis, junior coordinator and lead activator at Barry Athletic Cricket Club, commented on the exciting new project and said "Barry Athletic Cricket Club ran a very successful All Stars programme in 2017, with 70 children taking part. It's great that other local cricket clubs have taken up the idea for 2018 and we recently ran an indoor winter All Stars programme to ensure continuity."

For further information email [markellis@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:markellis@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk).

ME

## Barrivale Bridge Club round-up

**RESULTS for Barrivale Bridge Club for April 10:**

The evening session opened with the AGM which was followed by the 31st Birthday teams' event.

The winning team of the evening were Jane Brook and Sean MacDougall, Dave Thomas and Jenny Vaughan.

Also, the Bill Shore Trophy, for the annual handicap competition, was presented to Vivien Liles.

As always, new members are welcome at the club and a partner may be arranged, if required.

If you would like to

LH

## First competition of the year wrapped up at Brynhill GC

**BRYNHILL Golf Club's opening competition of the season, the Barry & District News competition, concluded last Sunday, with Inledon and Searle, who led from week one, narrowly snatching first place by one shot (51 net) from rank outsiders Cook and Tinnuche.**

Some of the scores recorded were highly impressive.

After the gentle season opener, on Sunday, we move onto the Queen's Coronation and Victory Shield medal competitions.

ND

## Time is running out for Barry Chess Club teams

**AS we near the end of the season the games are running out.**

There is little room for errors if we are to avoid relegation for three of our teams.

The Gambits in Division 4 cannot be relegated as they play in the bottom division.

Three of our teams played this week, with the Camelots the one having a rest.

In Division One the Bosons played the Pontypridd Barbarians. The five players were evenly matched in ratings terms.

Steve Cunliffe, Sam Jukes and Dave Parsons duly obliged by getting draws. Unfortunately that was the total points we earned with the top and bottom board going to Pontypridd.

This has moved the Bosons onto 38 points with a game in hand over the four teams below us.

The two Cardiff teams, the Pawns and Monarchs are already relegated. The remaining spot looks between the Bridgend A and North Cardiff Cheetahs who play one another in the final round of matches.

The only scenario I can see that would relegate the Bosons is a 4-1 victory for the Cheetahs. However with two matches to play the Bosons will surely earn the half-point needed to avoid relegation.

In Division 2 the Quarks travelled to Pontypridd to play the Phoenix.

Jonathan Thomas and Martin Ricketts were the only Barry players to trouble the scorers, both earning draws against higher-ranked opponents, so the game was last 4-1.

The Quarks remain rooted to the bottom of the table. The only encouraging thing is that Barry Chess Club are not the first team to be relegated this season.

PJ

## Centurions to begin season

**SULLY Centurions Cricket Club start the 2018 campaign with a couple of home friendlies this weekend.**

On Saturday, Centurions play host to Kensington & Chelsea CC, and on Sunday the visitors are Lisvane CC. Both matches start at 1pm.

This season sees Centurions aiming to build on last year's successes, when the first XI finished runners-up and the second XI finished in fourth place in the South East Wales Cricket League Division Three.

That honour goes to the two Cardiff teams previously mentioned.

To drag the relegation battle to the final round when we play the Penarth Pirates, who themselves are fighting relegation, we need to win our penultimate match by a big margin and hope either or both the Pirates and the Cardiff Crowns lose heavily.

The Crown's final two matches are against the Phoenix and leaders Pentrych. In this scenario we could find ourselves in a virtual play-off final as we play the Pirates in our last match.

The Gambits in Division 4 made the long trip to play Rhondda B.

It proved difficult to raise a team at short notice and we travelled with only four players, giving away a point before we started.

However Sam White, Peter Watkins and Dave Mahoney all won their matches and Ken Curry chipped in with a draw to give us an unlikely win by 3.5-1.5. We remain at the bottom of the table but this result has given us a modicum of respectability.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival. For more details visit our website at [barrychessclub.yolasite.com](http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com).

The Quarks remain rooted to the bottom of the table. The only encouraging thing is that Barry Chess Club are not the first team to be relegated this season.

PJ

## Tennis club's summer plans

**AFTER a successful open day, Barry Athletic Tennis Club is launching two summer-term initiatives to encourage new players into the game.**

Running every Wednesday until August, 'Play Tennis' is a series of weekly drop-in sessions where children (5pm) and adults (6pm) can receive tuition and supervision from a qualified coach, with all equipment provided.

The club are also proud to be part of Tennis for Kids; a national campaign which introduces thousands of new players to the game each year. Courses for new players aged five-eight are running every Sunday morning at 9am from April 22.

For more information find us online or social media.

RW





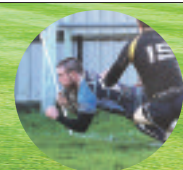
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## LIGHTNING STRIKES TWICE AS BARRY RFC ARE DENIED IN INJURY TIME YET AGAIN



**BARRY RFC destroyed the myth that lightning doesn't strike twice after slipping to defeat against league leaders Cilfynydd at the Reservoir Field last Saturday.**

For the second time in a month they have been on the wrong end of the scoreline to the same opponents, with the winning scores coming in injury time in both matches, and only five points separating the sides over the two games.

This game will be remembered for the huge defensive performance required to keep their opponents at bay, together with some fine threequarter play which created three tries in the 21-22 defeat.

The opening minutes saw Cilfynydd eager to

move the ball at pace but despite their possession, Barry were equal to it.

Cilfynydd had a shock only minutes into the game when, after conceding a penalty in the Barry half, they had to watch as Barross stroked the ball between the uprights for an early lead.

Clearly stunned by this reverse the visitors set themselves up with their strong scrum and lineout, providing plenty of ball and, following a series of forays, a hasty clearance from Barry gave them the space they needed to create a converted try under the posts for a 7-3 lead.

However some positive play got Barry back upfield and as Cilfynydd infringed, Barross was once again on hand to kick the penalty and reduce the lead to one point.



All pictures by Judith Dutton.

As in previous weeks, Barry struggled at the restart but managed to regain possession and clear. Cilfynydd failed to control the lineout ball, allowing Barry to break upfield where a try looked certain, only for the pass to fail to go to hand and the chance had gone.

Cilfynydd attacked but their efforts were marred by unforced errors and increasing penalties. Barry got themselves into visitors' territory again and a charge-down clearance gave them an opening which, after they recycled the ball, saw the move spread wide to beat the covering defence,

giving Brad White the try which Kyle Barross duly converted, and as half-time neared they had moved into the lead at 13-7.

This shocked Cilfynydd into action but still their over-eagerness and infringements were costing them dear as two try opportunities were wasted as Barry held firm under the onslaught. It was Barry who had the final scoring chance of the half, but this time the penalty chance missed as the whistle went.

The second half began with an immediate penalty award to Barry for crossing and Kyle Barross made no mistake, adding three points to the scoreboard.

A game of cut and thrust developed as both sides attacked and defended but the pressure was building on the home defence as Cilfynydd sought to reduce the deficit in a game they were looking to win with a bonus point.

Their pressure was rewarded as they were to take the lead with two quickfire tries in a matter of minutes.

Firstly, quick scrum ball gave them space and as the ball was recycled they found a gap in the home defence for a converted try out wide.

Despite winning the ball at the restart Barry were penalised, taking Cilfynydd into the Barry 22.

Driving the resulting lineout they forced their way over the Barry line, this time for an unconverted try, but more importantly the lead at 16-19.

This setback fired up Barry and for the next few minutes their aggression disrupted the visitors as they fought to get back into the game.

The reward came almost immediately as a sniping break from Kyle Barross broke the home defence, giving Tom Perry the try, but unfortunately for the

second time in the match the kick hit the upright.

Now leading 21-19, Barry kept up the momentum and had forced Cilfynydd into a tactical change as they now were kicking ball away for territory rather than their preferred attacking style.

They did have some success with this tactic as Barry were pinned in their own half and defending for their lives. A try looked certain as Cilfynydd broke the defence, only for the ball to be dropped in the act of scoring the try.

Barry seemed to have weathered the storm as they finished the stronger as the game entered injury time.

A lineout on the Cilfynydd 22 meant they only had to control the ball and the game would have been won.

Unfortunately, they were unable to do so and Cilfynydd were able to drive upfield and gain a lineout.

The resultant drive was halted by Barry but the referee saw an infringement and awarded Cilfynydd the penalty which was kicked to win the game 21-22.

A truly heartbreaking end to a match that Barry, with their effort and commitment, really deserved to win.

The next fixture for the first XV is on April 28 when they travel to Gilfach Goch, also fighting for promotion. A coach will leave the club at 12.30pm.

There are no games this weekend, however the club will open at 3pm for the Scarlets' European Cup encounter with Leinster.

No lottery winners again last week, as the jackpot increases to £1400 this Saturday - the numbers were 03, 15, 19 and 21.

There was no success for a consolation prize either as no ticket matched three numbers.

AJ

## Barry Town United book European play-off spot!

**BARRY Town United are play-off bound, having secured their spot with a 1-1 draw against Newtown on Sunday.**

Gavin Chesterfield's side can now look forward to a crunch May encounter with one of the JD Welsh Premier League's top six and the chance to potentially represent Wales in the UEFA Europa League qualifying rounds.

The televised match against Newtown was far from a vintage affair, but few could complain about the result, as Barry made it seven games unbeaten and secured the precious point required to seal their play-off place.

The Robins, clinging to their own slight play-off hopes, had cause for celebration in the 15th minute when they took a 1-0 advantage, ending Barry's run of over 360 minutes without conceding a JD Welsh Premier League goal.

After midfielder Ryan Kershaw pick-pocketed Barry's Ryan Newman, Kershaw fed former Shrewsbury Town forward Ethan Jones, who raced in on goal and slotted a confident finish beyond goalkeeper Mike Lewis.

Nevertheless, Newtown could not hold onto their lead and the hosts were on terms with 38 minutes played; Barry striker Jonathan Hood cutting in and curling a sweet finish into the bottom corner to level in style.

At one apiece, Lewis saved from Jones and Kieran Mills-Evans, while

the stopper was left a bewildered spectator in the 75th minute, when Luke Boundford's deflected hit dipped and rebounded off the crossbar.

As the match then petered out, the latter stages were most notable for a waved-away Newtown penalty claim and an unfortunate clash of heads between forward Jordan Cotterill and Robins defender Callum Roberts.

Supporters were pleased to welcome back Kayne McLaggan, the club's leading goalscorer, returning as a second-half substitute, providing Chesterfield with further attacking options for the play-off round ahead.

Having achieved their play-off berth with three games to spare, Barry will complete their regular season this week with a triple-header of fixtures; including the chance for double retribution on the north Wales coast.

On Saturday, Barry head to Llandudno (2.30pm), hoping to avenge their 1-0 loss to the Seasiders in September.

The Town then tackle relegated Prestatyn Town in a re-arranged fixture on Tuesday evening (7.45pm), Barry having suffered a 1-0 loss at Bastion Gardens in August and a wasted journey to the ground earlier this month.

The 32-game campaign then culminates on Friday, April 27, when Carmarthen Town are the final visitors of the 2017-18 season to Jenner Park, the Old Gold potentially needing a win for Welsh Premier League survival.

AC

## Sun shines on bowlers!

**THE sun shone on Barry Island as Barry Athletic Bowls club kicked off their 107th season on Saturday.**

The green was officially opened by Nia Butler, the general manager of Bowls Wales, the newly-formed co-ordinating body for bowls in Wales.

Nia extended her best wishes for a successful season and then undertook the time-honoured tradition of casting the first bowl of the season.

With a good turnout of both current and new members, there was a healthy audience on the banks as club chairman Richard Bowen spoke of his optimism for the season, and thanked all the members that had been involved in getting the clubhouse and green ready for a busy season.

The club will be hosting several prestigious fixtures this year with a 10-nation international test event in July and also a Welsh under-18s test match against Scotland later in August.

With the regular



The green is opened!

league programme for the first and second teams, the county and national competitions and regular club events, there is a busy time in prospect on the green at Barry, which was looking meticulous under the watchful eyes and excellent stewardship of Dave Snelling and Gary Jones.

Club captain Mike Vaughan then outlined his aims for the season and wished all club teams and individuals every success in their bowling in 2018. The first team will be looking for an immediate bounce back to the premier division and can look forward to a number of feisty derby matches as they look to gain immediate promotion.

The second team will be looking to consolidate their position in the league following their promotion last year. The rest of the afternoon was taken up with members competing for the John Jones Trophy, a new club competition for members and guests - initial honours fell to John Holmes who belied his advancing years with a masterful performance and headed off in to the Barry sunset clutching his well-deserved prizes.

The season starts in earnest next week as the club entertains a number of visiting teams in a round robin competition and the selectors will be looking keenly at the form of the players and hoping to ink in a few names for the teams that will be in league action at the end of the month.

RB

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